BLACK SUN SILVER MOON
2
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A Go! Comi manga

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FLOWERS, TOYS, AND THE FROZEN MOON
FAR TO THE EAST, THERE IS A FOREST...AND IN THAT FOREST, A SILVER-HAIRED OEMON.
I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU, LAZ.
THIS IS IMPORTANT.
IF YOU COMPLETE THIS JOB SAFELY..
...YOU WILL BE RECOGNIZEO AS A OEMON SLAYER ANO WELCOMED INTO OUR GROUP.

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THE CHURCH WAS PEACEFUL THAT DAY, LIKE ALL DAYS...
PHEW...
...AS THE THREE INHABITANTS WENT ABOUT THEIR USUAL ROUTINE.
...YES SIR, SHIKIMI-SENSEI.
WE'VE BEEN ENJOYING SUCH FINE WEATHER LATELY. RIGHT, TAKI-KUN?
Aaw and it's laundry weather
SNIFF SNIFF

花とおもちゃと凍る月

FLOWERS, TOYS, AND THE FROZEN MOON

BUT, OH WELL.
HE GETS BOSSIER EVERY OAY I SWEAR
AND I'M PRETTY SURE MY WORKLOAD'S GOTTEN BIG GER TOO
MUTTER MUTTER
FLAP
MAN, I THOUGHT I WAS OVER-WORKED BEFORE!
...EVEN THOUGH I KNOW I WANT TO HELP HIM...
I CAN HARDLY EVER TELL WHAT HE'S THINKING, ANO...
...SENSEI'S BARELY SAID TWO WORDS ABOUT HIM-SELF.
IN THE SIX MONTHS SINCE I CAME HERE...
...IN THE END, THIS IS ALL I CAN DO.
WOOO
STOP IT!!
I SEE YOU'RE BUSY I'LL FIND IT MYSELF THEN...
IT'S NOT IN HERE!!
TOSS
IN FACT, I BELIEVE I HAVE A COMFORTABLE BENCH AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE...
IT WOULD BE A PER-FECT DAY TO RELAX UNDER A TREE WITH A BOOK.
AT THIS RATE, IT SHOULD BE NICE AND WARM AROUND NOON.
MM-HMMM...
UH-HUH...
PUST PUST
LICK
FOCUS
Heavy
Uuh
I turned myself
HE'S WORKING ME TO THE BONE JUST LIKE ALWAYS, THAT JERK...
...DAMMIT.
In the meantime just stay put and enjoy your tea! Please!
I'm sorry I'll find it for you when I'm done here okay?
Yes yes I'm glad you under-stand
I'll be right back. Just don't make any more messes please!
I'm begging you, just let me do the laundry first!
Oh really you know I can't promise that
Ah-ha-ha

HUH. SHE'S WEARING MEN'S CLOTHING...
Wow, she's really pale and short.
Hm?
STARE
STARE
STARE
UH...
...LOOKS A BIT YOUNG, THOUGH.
SHE'S A BIT BOYISH, BUT PRETTY IN HER OWN WAY.
WELL, WELL...
H-HELLO.
STARE STARE
UH, WELL—
WHAT'S WITH YOUR HAIR? YOU DYE IT? AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR EYES?
Ack!
ARE YOU FATHER FARKASH?
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE THEY SAID YOU WOULD...
UH, IS THERE ANY-THING I CAN-
STARE STARE
Huh?
HUH?
I'LL BE KILLING YOU NOW.
UH... NO, I... ER, SENSEI IS--
OH WELL, DOESN'T MATTER.
...IS STARTING TO PISS ME OFF.
...THAT BEING ONLY A MAID INSTEAD OF REALLY HELPING HIM...
...I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK...
TCH.
.....
LATELY...
ALTHOUGH, THERE REALLY AREN'T ANY ROADS NEAR HERE...
THAT HAS TO BE IT. NOBODY EVER COMES HERE.
HE PROBABLY JUST STRAYED OFF THE ROAD.
He's coming this way. What do I do?
Ah!
PANIC
HUH?
A PERSON?
WE HAVE A GUEST?
Hm?
HELLO.

WAH!?
Not again!!
LUNGE
...TRYING TO RUN!!
IS THIS GIRL FOR REAL!?
BLOCK
WAI—!
Whoosh
WHY, YOU ...!
FLOAT
She cut my hair!!
SMACK
Girl-face...
Irk!
FREEZE

???
LIKE YOU, I AM A DEMON SLAYER. AN APPRENTICE STILL, BUT NEVERTHELESS. I TRAVELED HERE FROM A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY.
...EXCUSE ME?
SWISH
NEED MY NAME BEFORE YOU DIE?
I'M LAZ. LAZLO VARGA.
THIS IS NOTHING PERSONAL. I AM MERELY FOLLOWING ORDERS FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.
YOUR EFFORTS WERE APPRECIATED, BUT WE CANNOT HAVE A DEMON WORKING SO CLOSELY WITH US. AS OF TODAY, YOU ARE OFFICIALLY EXCOMMUNICATED.
HEY!! WAIDDA—
"Watch it!"
IT IS NO USE...
WOOSH
APOLOGIES, BUT NOW YOU DIE.
!!?

Why you...!
てめえ!!
SORRY! WRONG PERSON! ♡
JUST WAIT A SECOND !!
What's with this chick!?
EH HEH!
てへ♡
You wanna go see Taki?
.....
!?
TURN
?
SENSE!!
THAT GIRL'S DANGEROUS ...!
PERK
OH, COME ON. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
YOU'RE OKAY. NOW, TO TAKE CARE OF THIS ONE!
I am not okay!!
Hm?
PREPARE YOUR-SELF!!
WAI-!

WAI...!
OUCH!
OW OW OW OW!
OW ...!
P...
PLEASE, WAIT!!
.....
TAKI?
Full name: Shikimi Farkash
Taki Juhas
SILVER HAIR...
!
Whats with that carefree attitude!?
THIS IS... A VISITOR? TAKI, THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT A GUEST.
WAVE
WAVE
WAVE
SENSE!
YOU'RE WRONG, THIS-
OH.

...SORRY.
Man, I feel bad for hurting her...
HMPH
...I SAID I'M SORRY.
It was just an accident
WAY TO GO. SEE WHAT YOU DID TO MY FOOT? I WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK FOR A WHILE BECAUSE OF YOU. IT'LL SERIOUSLY MESS UP MY SCHEDULE. I CAN'T EVEN TRAIN!
UGH, I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! SHEESH.
GRMBL
GRMBL
GRMBL
GRMBL
CLICK
And you walk off away without a scratch
WHILE YOU'RE HERE, THERE WILL BE NO MORE COMPLAINING.
THUD
UWAH!
GYAH!
THAT...
WHO'RE YOU CALLING A GIRL!?
WAH! YOU DUMMY, NOT SO FAST...!
SHOCK
WHO'RE YOU...
HUH?
TRIP
Goodness they're loud
...HUUUUURT !!!

.....
WHA...!
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR!? WHAT'D I DO!?
WHO'S A GIRL HERE, HUH!? WHO!?
CRACK
がす
.....
My my
ごす
Oh dear.
WOULDN'T THAT BE-
THUNK
You still wanna say it?
WH... WHO? WELL...
GRRRR
*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES
I'M A GUY!!!
ARE YOU BLIND AND STUPID!? YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL JUST BY LOOKING!
My my my my

GRRRR!
YOU'RE AT OUR MERCY NOW, IDIOT, SO SHUT UP AND STOP TRYING TO KILL ME.
(IS WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE TO HER...)
IN LIGHT OF THESE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD SUGGEST RETHINKING YOUR INTENTIONS.
Laz is a pet name.
IF WE WERE ACTUALLY ENEMIES, WE'D BE INCLINED TO SIMPLY HAVE YOU KILLED,
LAZLO... ER, LAZ-SAN, WAS IT?
!
Ooh New person!
HEH HEH
YOU'RE STUCK HERE, SO YOU'D BETTER GET USED TO IT. BE GRATEFUL YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
PLEASE TAKE IT EASY UNTIL YOUR ANKLE HEALS, THOUGH I APOLOGIZE FOR THE STATE OF MY CHURCH.
WELL, I THINK I'VE MADE MY POINT.
!!
YOU TOO, SENSEI...
COME ON, SENSEI, THE POOR GIRL'S HURT. SO BE A LITTLE MORE... GENTLE... OKAY?
Okay?
PSST
I WILL NOT TAKE PITY FROM MY ENEMY!
You already are like it or not.
Person I don't know?
.....
Rawr!
N-NOW NOW, CALM DOWN...
Oh what luck that we have a spare room!
Heh.
PUFF PUFF
SO, HE'S THIS RUDE TO EVERYONE, HUH?
OR IS HE TRYING TO PUSH HER BUTTONS?
EITHER WAY, THAT SMILE IS PISSING HER OFF.
GROWL

Hmm...
I SUPPOSE.
REGARDLESS, I'M NOT SO EASY TO KILL...
...SO I'M SURE THEY'LL GIVE UP EVENTUALLY.
HIS HAIR.
THERE IS AN ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE CHURCH DEDICATED TO DESTROYING THE RESURRECTED.
THE DEMON SLAYERS COME FROM EVERY COUNTRY, BUT ALL ARE COMMANDED BY THE CENTRAL CHURCH.
Here you go.
WELL, YEAH, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN...
I, TOO, WAS A MEMBER, BUT BECAUSE OF MY UNIQUE SITUATION, I BECAME SOMETHING OF A PROBLEM FOR THEM. I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND.
IN THE SIX MONTHS YOU'VE BEEN HERE...
IN ONLY SIXTH MONTHS...
IT'S A LOT...
...LIGHTER, SUCH A SHINY SILVER...
I THINK IT WAS A LITTLE DARKER WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE.
.....
WHAT...
...DO YOU THINK, SENSEI?
HE CAN'T EXACTLY MOVE AROUND MUCH UNTIL HIS FOOT HEALS.
Hmmm
BUT...
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT? THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND EXCOMMUNICATION AND ALL THAT?
HE SAID SOME PRETTY DISTURBING THINGS.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I SHOULD POINT OUT...
...DEMON SLAYERS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS MALE.
I much prefer the soft gentle type
Hm? So that's the kind of girl you like?
BLOOP BLOOP BLOOP
YEAH, SHE'S STRONG AND HAS A MEAN TEMPER, BUT WHEN SHE'S BEING QUIET SHE MAKES A PRETTY CUTE GIRL... DON'T YOU THINK?
WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING. WE'LL JUST LEAVE HIM BE.
SO... WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO WITH HIM?
THEN SHE REALLY IS A GUY...
Aww, too bad

...HE'S STARTING TO LAUGH WITH ME LIKE HE MEANS IT.
...I OON'T THINK I'M JUST IMAGINING THAT...
...WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW HE USEO TO SMILE...

THERE, ALL OONE!
OW!
PAT
ぽん
WELL MY INJURIES HAVE HEALEO...
NO OUH. YOU REALLY EXPECTEO THIS TO HEAL IN A OAY OR TWO?
HMMM... THE SWELLING HASN'T GONE OOWN YET.
UH... MUTTER
HEY, I'M NOT MAO ABOUT IT.
It really is rude
Although I do think you should stop staring at people's faces

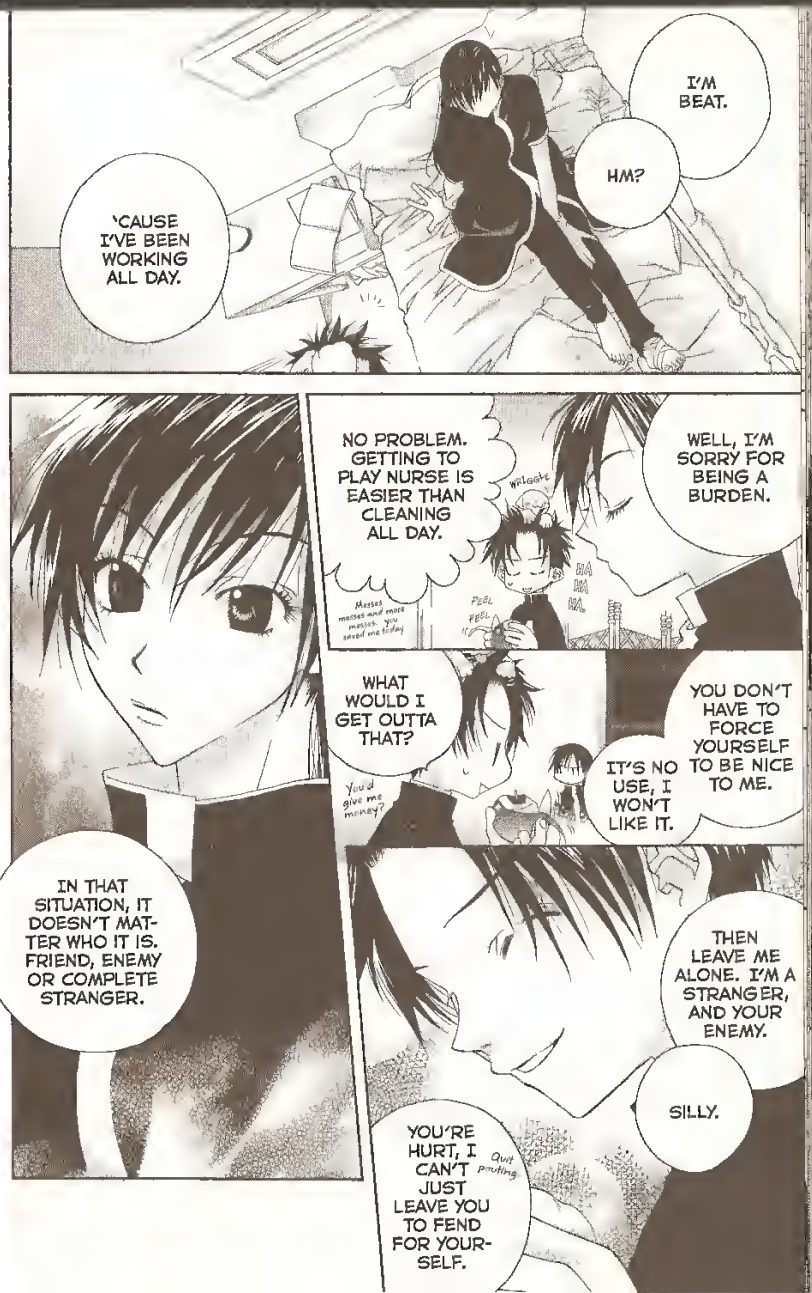
...
...YOU'VE ONLY IMPROVED AT MAKING TEA...
...TAKI.
YES, ONLY.
...ONLY?
And you still say it's bad anyway

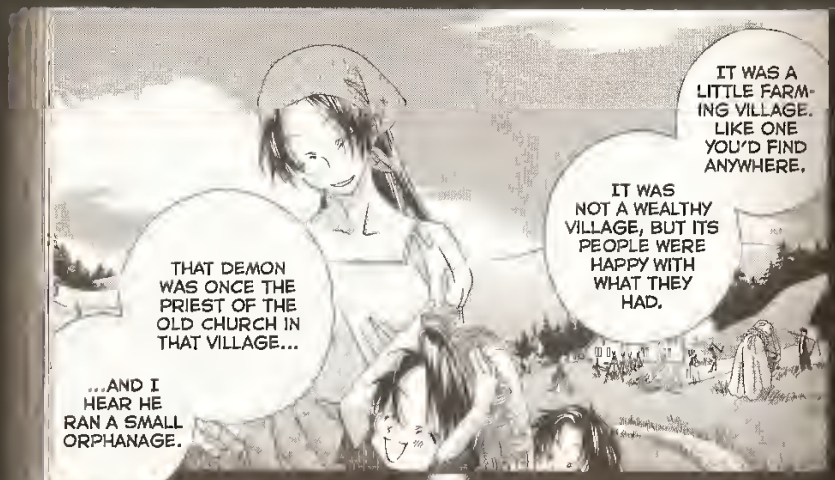
EVEN SO...

HUH?
WHERE'S THAT PRIEST?
I THINK HE'S IN HIS ROOM, READING.
TAKE ME THERE.
Huh?
WHY?
TO SIZE HIM UP, OBVIOUSLY.
I CAN'T KILL HIM WITH MY FOOT LIKE THIS, BUT I CAN AT LEAST DO SOME INVESTI-GATING.
.....
YEAH, BUT...
...FINE. I GOT IT.
BUT UH... HIS ROOM'S SUCH A MESS...
I SAID IT'S FINE.
I WAS SO-ING TO CLEAN IT UP, WHAT WITH ALL THE DUST...
WHAT'S HE DOING IN THERE THAT YOU DON'T WANT ME TO SEE, HUH?
NO, UH... LISTEN...
I DON'T THINK IT'LL HELP ANY...
HE REALLY SHOULD QUIT WHILE HE'S AHEAD.
One more time
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE WALKING YET.
WHAT-EVER. JUST SHOW ME.
THAT WAS RATHER BOYISH...
...HM?
HFF / HFF /
FAKE
.....
STOIC
Huh?
OOOWWW!!
YOU'RE OVERRE-ACTING. I WAS JUST PATTING IT.
Is that your revenge!?
WHY YOU.../ YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND MY PAIN!
SHEESH. IF YOU REALLY ARE A GUY, SUCK IT UP.
WHAT?
HUH!?
UH...
No uh.
Why the hell are you staring at me?
IT'S NOTH-ING...
HM, BUT... IT COULDN'T BE. HE SAID SO HIMSELF, HE'S A GUY...
I was seeing things all right
...WAS I SEEING THINGS? I HAD TO HAVE BEEN.
OKAY... WEREN'T THOSE... BREASTS?
HEY.

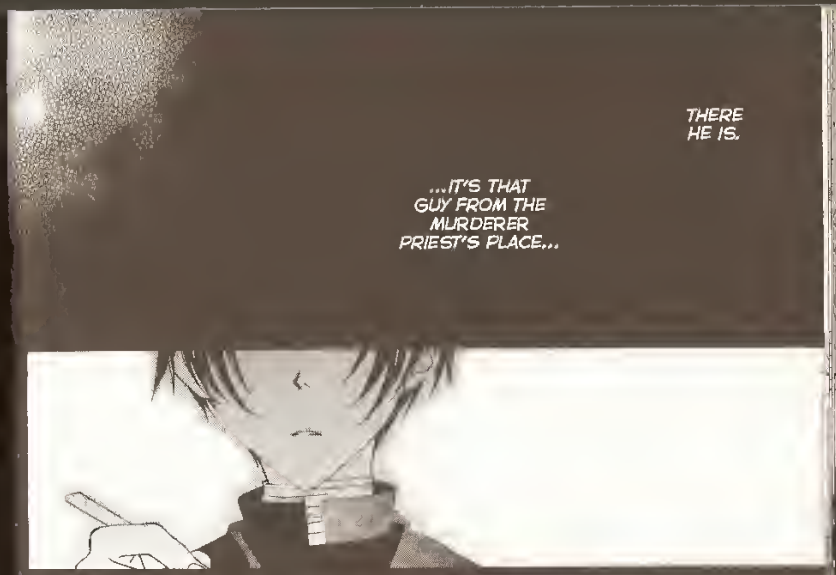
STARTLE
Person I don't know!
STARTLE
Why not?
WELL?
ARE YOU SATISFIED AFTER WATCHING HIM ALL DAY?
Want an apple?
SEE? THERE WASN'T ANYTHING ODD, AFTER ALL!
JUST ONE DAY ISN'T ENOUGH TO FOOL ME.
WE'RE NOT TRYING TO FOOL YOU...
HMPH!
That's really all we do.
OH WELL. YOU'LL GET IT EVENTU-ALLY.
Eh, what's the use?
.....
HUH?
HE WANTS TO SEE MY ROOM?
.....
What's that supposed to mean? Seriously I don't want him to see...
Like he's holding a black ritual?
.....
I DON'T REALLY MIND...
By all means
Blush
Uuuh
It's still rather tidy I haven't been in here long
Don't you care at all?
No, no
Can I have some food?
Yes yes Eiru, though its absolutely no use, you'd tell me incessantly
Aren't I always telling you to tidy up after yourself?
I'm telling you you should be ashamed!
Uuh, dirty
Where do these go?
Oh, in the library up in the attic.
.....
Yes yes Gold boy
Damn!! Sensei you dummy!!
Wow
CLEAN
CLEAN

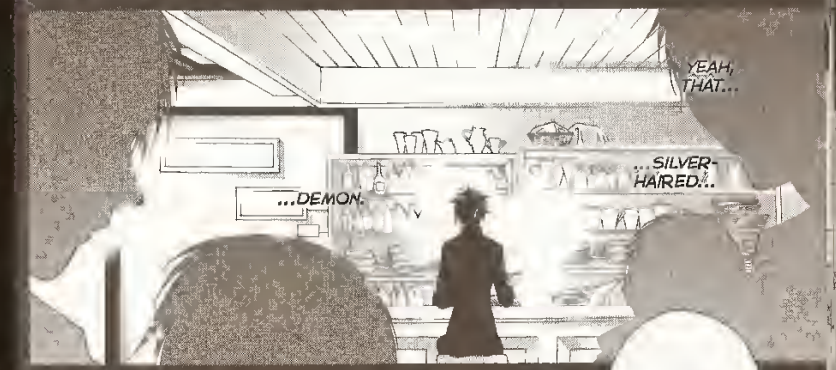
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANY-THING, DO YOU?
!
YOU ...
HM?
...TO HIS OWN VILLAGE. HE KILLED THEM ALL.
...UH–
ABOUT THAT DEMON
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DID...


I'M BEAT.
HM?
'CAUSE I'VE BEEN WORKING ALL DAY.
WELL, I'M SORRY FOR BEING A BURDEN.
NO PROBLEM. GETTING TO PLAY NURSE IS EASIER THAN CLEANING ALL DAY.
Messes messes and more messes. You saved me today
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO BE NICE TO ME.
IT'S NO USE, I WON'T LIKE IT.
WHAT WOULD I GET OUTTA THAT?
You'd give me money?
IN THAT SITUATION, IT DOESN'T MAT-TER WHO IT IS. FRIEND, ENEMY OR COMPLETE STRANGER.
THEN LEAVE ME ALONE. I'M A STRANGER, AND YOUR ENEMY.
SILLY.
YOU'RE HURT, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU TO FEND FOR YOUR-SELF.
Quit pouting


IT WAS A LITTLE FARMING VILLAGE. LIKE ONE YOU'D FIND ANYWHERE.
IT WAS NOT A WEALTHY VILLAGE, BUT ITS PEOPLE WERE HAPPY WITH WHAT THEY HAD.
THAT DEMON WAS ONCE THE PRIEST OF THE OLD CHURCH IN THAT VILLAGE...
...AND I HEAR HE RAN A SMALL ORPHANAGE.

THAT SMALL VILLAGE...

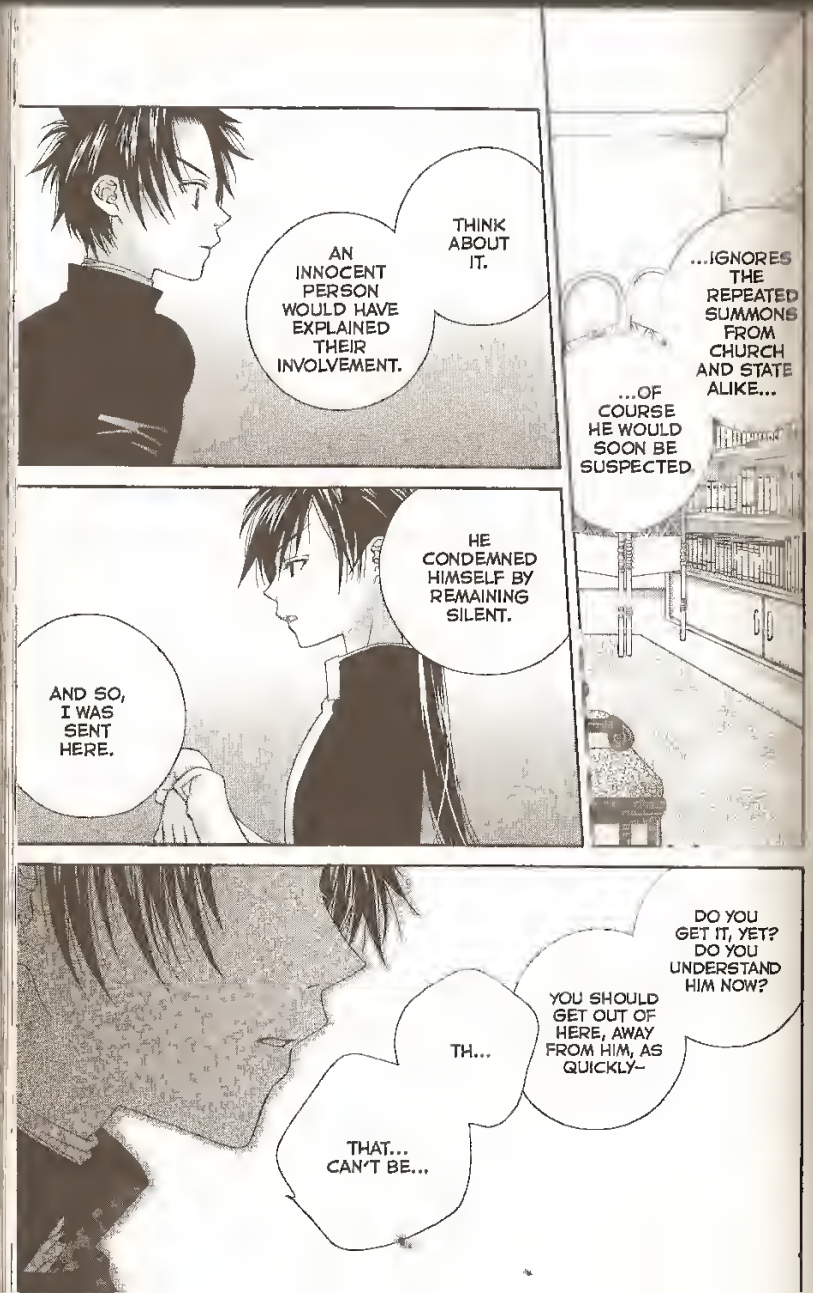




THREE YEARS AGO...

...THERE WAS A VILLAGE AROUND THE BASE OF A MOUNTAIN JUST A LITTLE SOUTH OF HERE.

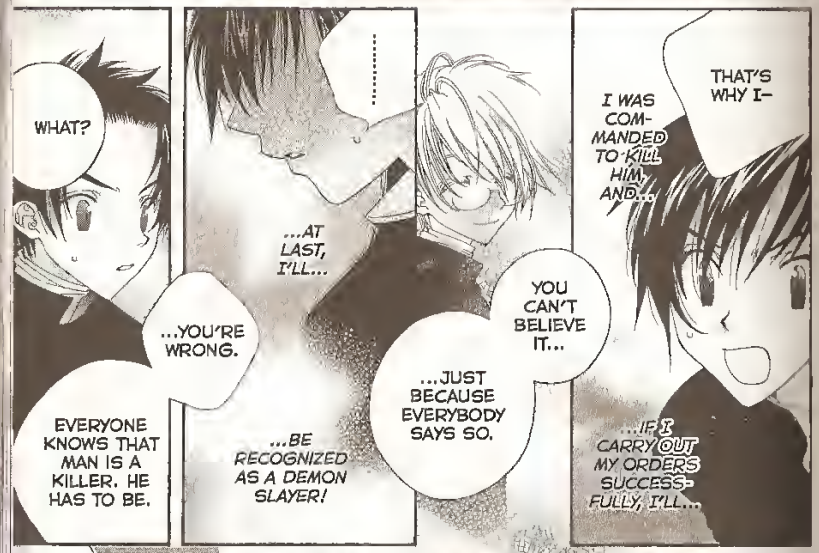
IT WAS AN ANNIHILATION.

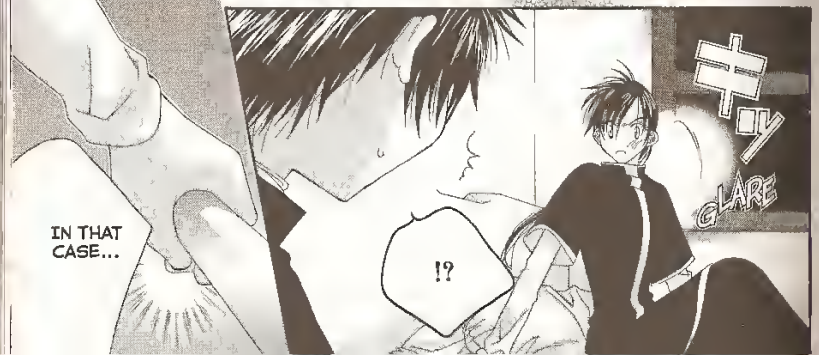

THINK ABOUT IT.
AN INNOCENT PERSON WOULD HAVE EXPLAINED THEIR INVOLVEMENT.
...IGNORES THE REPEATED SUMMONS FROM CHURCH AND STATE ALIKE...
...OF COURSE HE WOULD SOON BE SUSPECTED.
HE CONDEMNED HIMSELF BY REMAINING SILENT.
AND SO, I WAS SENT HERE.
DO YOU GET IT, YET? DO YOU UNDERSTAND HIM NOW?
YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE, AWAY FROM HIM, AS QUICKLY—
TH...
THAT... CAN'T BE...

THE FACT THAT HE WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT ALIVE...
...IMPLIED THAT HE MUST'VE KNOWN WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
"YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW."
WE DID NOT IMMEDIATELY ASSUME HE WAS GUILTY, BUT...
...WHEN THE ONLY WITNESS TO A SLAUGHTER...

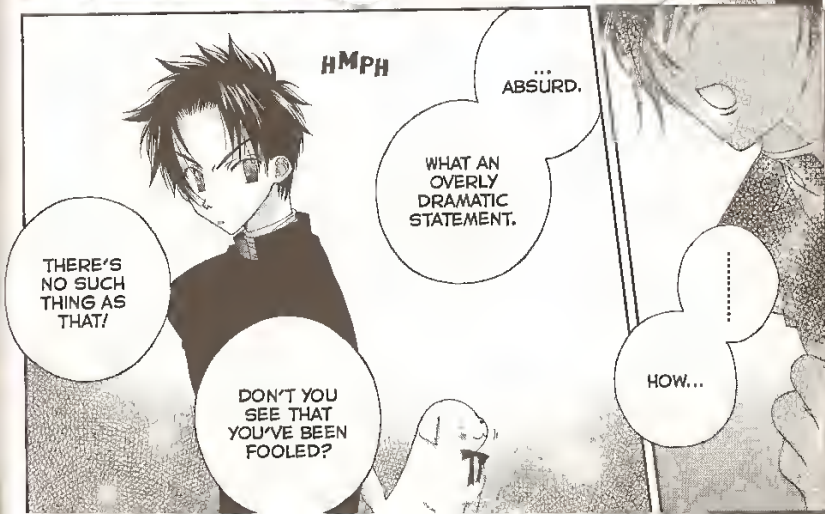
...WELL.
WHAT HAPPENED, HAPPENED.
HOW COMPLETELY GROUNDLESS
THIS IS MY..
...CONVICTION.
SOMEHOW, BECAUSE HE NEVER SAID ANYTHING...
...I'M MORE INCLINED TO TRUST HIM.
OF COURSE HE WAS INVOLVED IN WHAT HAPPENED.
HE COULDN'T...
HEY...
...HE DIDN'T KILL THOSE PEOPLE. I KNOW HE DIDN'T.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BELIEVE HE WASN'T. BUT...
THAT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE.
ARE YOU CRAZY?
BUT... BUT YOU CAN'T DENY THE PILE OF CORPSES IN THE VILLAGE, IT'S AN HONEST-TO-GOODNESS FACT THAT-
NO, I CAN'T.
WHINE WHINE
Shut up
WHA ...!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "CRAZY"!? I HAVE RELIABLE SOURCES, YOU KN-
...IS RIDICULOUS. SHEESH, BECAUSE OF YOU PEOPLE, HE-
BUT TO ASSUME THAT THE ONLY SURVIVOR IS GUILTY OF EVERYTHING WHEN YOU HAVE NO REAL PROOF OF WHAT HAPPENED...
THEY'D STRUGGLE OR CRY FOR HELP OR RUN AWAY! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
Yeah, but
THINK ABOUT IT! FIFTY PEOPLE KILLED BY ONE PERSON? WITHOUT RESISTING!?

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?
EVERYBODY SAYS THAT THAT MAN'S A DEMON.
THAT HE'S AN ABOMINATION, A DEMON WHO'S KILLED DOZENS! A MURDERER!


WHAT?
...YOU'RE WRONG.
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT MAN IS A KILLER. HE HAS TO BE.
...AT LAST, I'LL...
...BE RECOGNIZED AS A DEMON SLAYER!
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
...JUST BECAUSE EVERYBODY SAYS SO.
THAT'S WHY I—
I WAS COMMANDED TO KILL HIM, AND...
...IF I CARRY OUT MY ORDERS SUCCESSFULLY, I'LL...


IN THAT CASE...
!?
キッ
GLARE

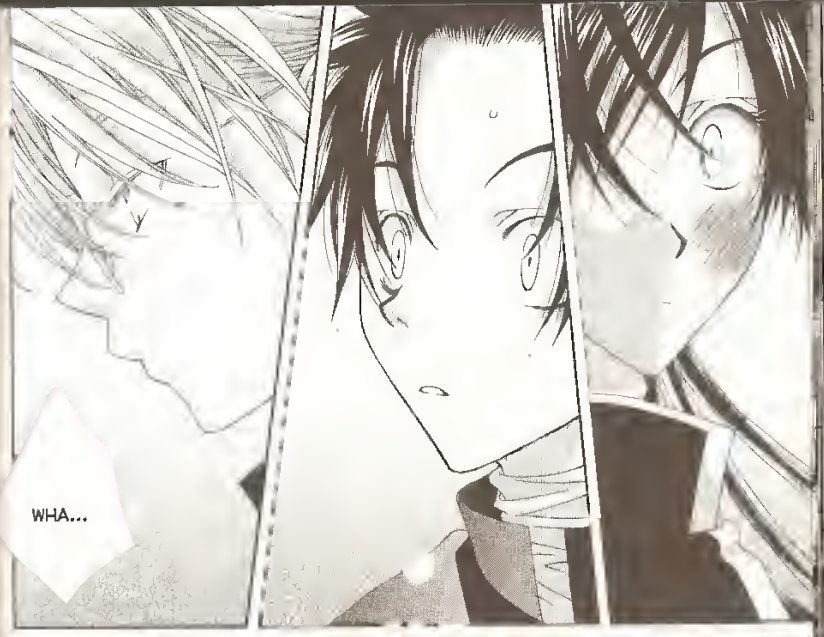
IT'S COMPASSION.
IF THEY CAN'T SMILE, HOW CAN PEOPLE CONNECT?
That's just it
Its just my intuition. Plain and simple.
HOW DO I PUT IT?
YOU'RE RIGHT... I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO, BUT...
CONVICTION...
WHY?
WHY ARE YOU SO CONVINCED HE'S INNOCENT?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT THIS UNTIL I TOLD YOU!


HMPH
...ABSURD.
WHAT AN OVERLY DRAMATIC STATEMENT.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS THAT!
DON'T YOU SEE THAT YOU'VE BEEN FOOLED?
HOW...

SENSEI...
HUH?
ぽし
GRAB
PUNCH
WAAH!
WHOOSH
...YOU ARE AN ACCOMPLICE!
BE CAREFUL!
SMIRK
!!
!
!
YOU IDIOT, YOU'RE STILL—
...UNH!
THROB
WAI...!

YOU'RE RIGHT. I OVERREACTED. I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT FIRST.
.....
?
Sigh...
WHEN I REALIZED YOU WERE IN DANGER, IT WAS AN AUTOMATIC REACTION.
WH... WHAT IS IT?
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY I LET THE BLOOD RUSH TO MY HEAD.
...IT WAS QUITE A STRANGE FEELING.

.....
ANYWAY, THAT SAID...
You know how kids are. They're rough with their toys, but throw a tantrum if someone else tries to play.
I FELT LIKE A CHILD ABOUT TO LOSE HIS FAVORITE TOY.


WHA...
OH, I'M FINE. IT JUST HURTS A BIT.
It'll heal in no time
Owie owie
I didn't even have time to blink!
I DIDN'T ASK IF YOU WERE OKAY!
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM, ALL OF A SUDDEN!?

How mean
Well
THAT'S TRUE BUT...
.....
...YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT HIM LIKE THAT!
BUT I JUST SAVED YOU.

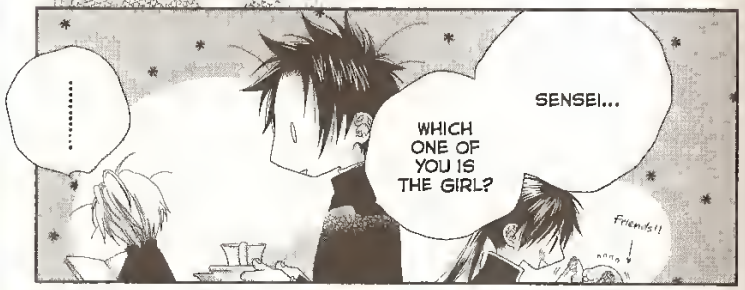
I WON'T APOLOGIZE FOR HITTING YOU.
LASZLO... -SAN?
YOU TRIED TO HURT...
...MY PRECIOUS TOY.
I'LL OVERLOOK IT THIS TIME, BUT...
HEH
...LET'S NOT HAVE THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

W-WAIT A SECOND, I'LL GO GET SOME ICE!
OMIGODOMIGODOMIGODOMIGOD あわわわ
AWAH!
A-ARE YOU OKAY!?
Copy-cat
...WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIM?
!!
DASH ダッ
Whaaat? Meee
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!!
SENSEI, MAKE SURE HE'S OKAY!
I... I DON'T NEED YOUR HE-
COME NOW, NO HARD FEELINGS.
See?
I DO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT KEEPING MY EMOTIONS IN CHECK.
HOW-EVER...
CAN YOU STAND?
HERE, LET ME HELP YOU.
Come on
GASP
REACH

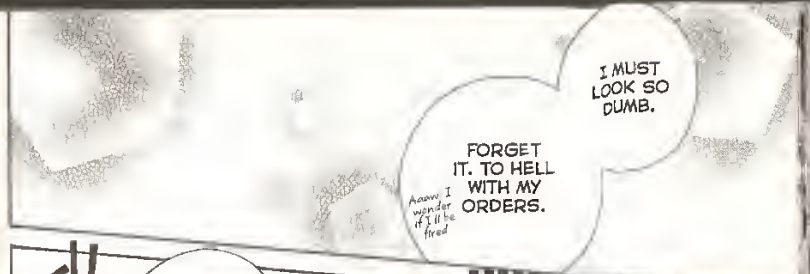
Well, I'm not surprised, with a face like yours...
UH HUH...
LICK LICK LICK
Like this
HUH?
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER BEEN HIT.
Should I lick it better?
DESPITE MY TEMPER... DESPITE MY MOUTH, NO ONE HAD EVER HIT ME. OR EVEN TRIED, LIKE YOU DID YESTERDAY.
BUT... WELL, YOU WERE KIND OF ASKING FOR IT, HONESTLY ...
YEAH.
I KNOW. I WAS WRONG FOR HOW I'VE BEEN ACTING.
LICK
Like this?
I'VE BECOME SO STUPID.
I'VE NEVER RELIED ON ANYONE FOR ANYTHING.
I WANTED TO PROVE MYSELF BY BECOMING A DEMON SLAYER. HEH...
TO THINK, THE FIRST PERSON EVER TO HIT ME IS A DEMON. NO ONE ELSE WOULD EVER...
I DON'T GET IT...
...I'M SORRY.

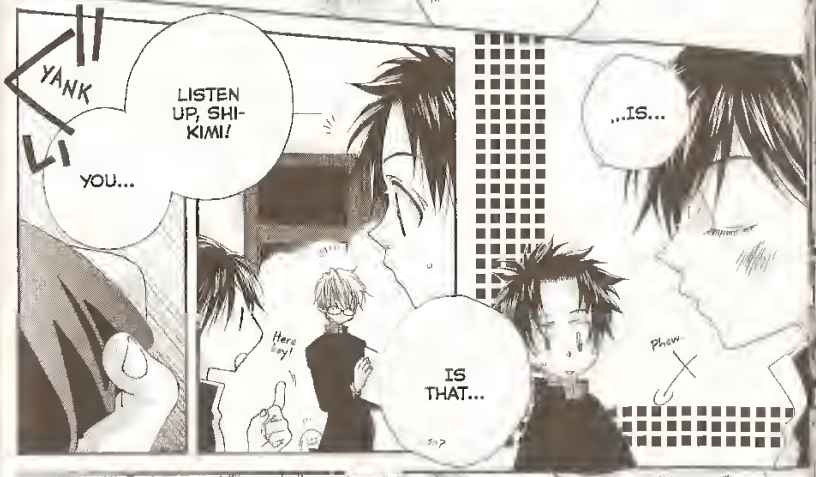
YOU'D DO WELL...
...TO REMEMBER THAT.
I'm slipping!
LET'S SEE...
...YOU OKAY?
Aga-gain-lick it better
UH...
I-I'M SORRY... UH I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET THE WRONG IMPRESSION
...UH...
Like this
Er, I'm not really sure how to end that statement...
LICK LICK LICK
WHISPER
...FIRST TIME...
H-HE'S NOT A BAD GUY, REALLY. SENSEI, I MEAN.
I, UH... THE ICE...?
Here it is

I ALWAYS KNEW MALE COMPANIONSHIP WAS THE BEST THING FOR ME. IT'S SO MUCH BETTER TO TALK THINGS OUT WITH OUR FISTS... ♡
HONESTLY, I NEVER REALLY HAD ANY INTEREST IN WOMEN.
...COME AGAIN?
WAI...
← Masochist?
We all friends now?
P-PLEASE, JUST A MOMENT. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY ...?



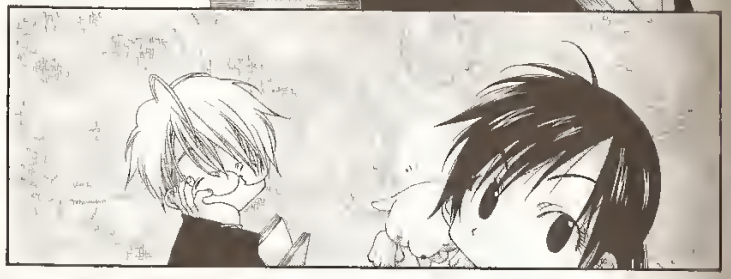
FLOWERS, TOYS, AND THE FROZEN MOON ✝ END





BUT
DON'T
FALL
FOR IT.

OKAY, I GOTTA SAY IT...
YOU TWO ARE NOT A GOOD MATCH!



.....
WHY'RE YOU SAYING THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN? HOW RUDE!
YOU GUYS NEED TO GET YOURSELVES DECENT BRIDES!
こちゃー
MESSY

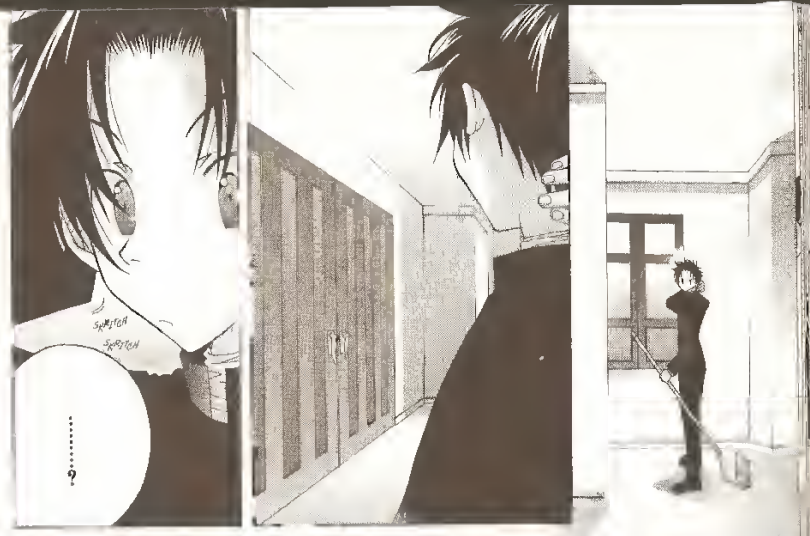
ひかりのとびら
DOOR OF LIGHT

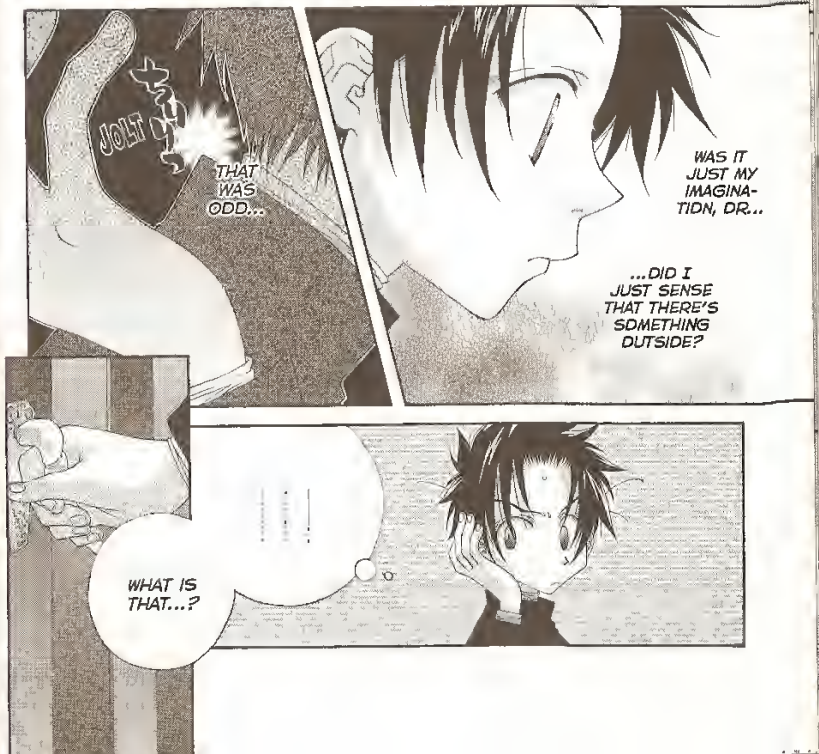
...SILENT AS EVER, STANDING CALMLY IN ISOLATION.
TIME PASSED QUIETLY BY, EACH DAY MUCH THE SAME...
...AS THE ONE BEFORE.
NOT A CHANGE UNTIL THIS VERY DAY, AT THIS VERY TIME...
CHIKU

WELL, I SUPPOSE IT'D BE RATHER FITTING FOR YOU TWO TO GET MARRIED...
We will not, I assure you.
EVENTUALLY PEOPLE WILL STOP COMING HERE, AND IT'LL BE USED AS A DUMP.
I COULD HAVE SWORN I HAD POLITELY DECLINED, ALREADY...
Countless times.
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M JUST NOT INTERESTED.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE'RE A PERFECT MATCH, WE'VE GOT A GREAT DYNAMIC GOING ON HERE.
DON'T YOU THINK SO, SHIKIMI?
In other words...
IT DOESN'T MATTER, SEE? 'KAY?
DUMP
No one ever comes up here anyway
These two...!!
I'm just trying to do my job...
A Perfect Match
It doesn't bother you if you get used to it
THE CHURCH REMAINED...

I felt it go past my hair
A PERSON?
WHOA!
SWOOSH
YOU SCARED ME.
THE WAY YOU FLUNG IT OPEN, I THOUGHT I'D LOSE MY HEAD.

HE'S BLONDE...
...AND HIS EYES ARE BLUE. A WESTERNER?
HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON YOU SEE AROUND HERE.
...NO... HE'S...
HELLO. DO YOU LIVE HERE?


SWITCH
SWITCH
.....?


JOLT
THAT WAS ODD...
WAS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION, DR...
...DID I JUST SENSE THAT THERE'S SOMETHING OUTSIDE?
WHAT IS THAT...?

MY, THAT WAS SOME GREETING.
Hey again.
Phew
click
WHA ...!?
HOW'D YOU GET IN–
WOOSH
SHEESH! WHAT KIND OF PLACE DOES HE THINK THIS IS!?
JUST WALKING ON OVER IN BROAD DAYLIGHT... IT'S ALWAYS TROUBLE WHEN SOMEONE NEW SHOWS UP!
TOTAL LOCKDOWN
click
ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M SO BUSY...
OKAY?
MMPH!!
OH, COME NOW, DON'T LOOK SO FRIGHTENED.
I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE YOU AWAY AND EAT YOU, OR ANYTHING.
MMPH!
そガ!!
... HERE ...!?
NOW NOW! BE A GOOD LITTLE BOY!
CLAMP
ぽふっ
I HATE NOISY LITTLE KIDS.

HE'S IN. BUT...THIS CHURCH DOESN'T SERVICE THOSE KINDS OF NEEDS.
YOU STARTLED ME. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO KNOCK.
Anyway
IS THE FATHER IN?
NOW, IF YOU'D PLEASE TAKE YOUR LEAVE!!
SLAM
ばたん!!

HE CAN SENSE YOU, BUT NOT THE DEMONS IN THE GRAVE-YARD?
Huh.
SO I'VE BEEN FOUND OUT, EH?
THAT'S STRANGE. AND AFTER I MADE SURE TO CONTROL MY AURA...
THEY'RE JUST THE SAME...
Honestly he's absolutely useless!
There now I'm not holding it anymore
Let's see now
THIS IS GREY...-SAN.
HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE.
A RESUR-RECTED FROM THE WEST.
RATTLE
She thinks he's a friend.
YES, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT EITHER, I SEE
BY THE WAY, WOULD YOU LET GO OF THAT? THAT'S MY MAID, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
Mmph !!
HEY. HOW LONG'S IT BEEN? THREE YEARS? YOU'RE LOOK-ING WELL.
SHIKIMI-SENSEI.
HUH, I THOUGHT I'D HEARD THE DOOR. SO IT WAS YOU.
Oh, would you get us some tea?
"CREEP"? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN? How rude!
YES, I DO. IS THERE A PROBLEM?
WAIT JUST A MINUTE! DO YOU KNOW THIS CREEP!?
RELEASE
COUGH
WELL, HE'S NOT HUMAN!!
WAIT
SURE THING!
...WA...

YOU'RE JUST A KID. IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
I SWEAR TO GOD.
MY, HOW YOU UNDERESTIMATE HIM.
IF YOU'RE WILLING TO CROSS SWORDS WITH HIM, I'D WAGER HE HAS A CHANCE.
Poor Taki. He got so mad he ran
I doubt you'd die though
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION.
WITH THAT BOY...AND WITH YOU.
IT WOULDN'T BE WISE TO OVERLOOK HIM.
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
Heh heh
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT STRENGTH OR SKILL.
Such a futile game
YOU KNOW I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DOING THAT.
BUT THAT BOY...
...SENSED YOU WHEN EVEN I DIDN'T.
Silver
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! HOW COULD YOU BE FRIENDS WITH ONE OF THEM!?
OKAY, THEN. WHY DON'T YOU MAKE ME LEAVE?
And he doesn't have silver hair.
Yep.
YES, A RESURRECTED.
DEPENDING ON THE REGION, RESURRECTED ARE REBORN DIFFERENTLY. IN GREY'S CASE, HE CAN MOVE ABOUT JUST FINE.
Ah, he had that tickles!
LICK LICK
RESU...!?
RESURRECTED? RESURRECTED!?
WELL, THINGS ARE A LITTLE COMPLICATED.
COMPLICATED HOW!?
Thank you
Here's your tea
You're even called a Demon Slayer!
IT'S YOUR JOB TO GET RID OF GUYS LIKE HIM!
!
YOU GET POINTS FOR KNOWING WHAT I AM, BUT...
...THAT BY ITSELF WON'T HELP YOU.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY, BUT I ASSURE YOU... YOU CAN'T KILL ME.

どた
CLATTER
TRIP
ガン
WATCH OU-!
Eep!
Uh oh
IT'S SENSE! ...
Uh
SORRY...
YOU DUMMY...! WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? HEY!
YOU WERE STARING STRAIGHT AT THE GROUND! HOW DID YOU NOT SEE THAT THERE!?
Owwwww
...YEAH, SORRY...

イラッ
WHO'S HE THINK HE IS? WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS!?
HE PISSES ME OFF.
YOU HAVEN'T...
...FOR-GOTTEN, HAVE YOU? OUR LITTLE BET...
PANT
PANT
DAMMIT... HE REALLY MAKES ME SICK.
I WONDER WHY I HATE HIM SO MUCH...
Hm?
GRRRR!!
UGH, THAT SCALY LITTLE CREEP REALLY TICKS ME OFF!
YOU'RE JUST A KID. IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
KICK

WHAT THE HECK IS...
SOME-THING...
...THINGS JUST SEEM OFF.
OKAY, WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S ALMOST NOON ALREADY, AND EVERY-THING'S STILL CLEAN.
NOT EVEN A SPECK OF DUST...
.....
SNEAK
Aah! So much to do!
OH, WELL.
I CAN STILL MOP, AND THERE'S OTHER THINGS TO DO.
I'm a busy guy
HMPH
...TAKI?
Hm?

SINCE I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO, I FIGURED I'D READ A BOOK.
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANTED?
Aura
I hate you
Don't come near me
Go away
SHIKIMI TOLD ME I COULD DO AS I PLEASE.
SMIRK
GLARE
.....
OH, GO RIGHT AHEAD. DON'T MIND ME.
♡
.....
In here I mean
WELL, I'M GOING TO BE CLEANING.
Heh,
I WONDER IF YOU, ALSO...
...ARE AFRAID OF ME?
YOU'RE NOT ACTING LIKE THAT OTHER KID.
HUH!?
Hmm
Ugh, this jerk !!
And yes I do mind!
YOU'RE IN MY WAY. CAN'T YOU READ SOMEWHERE ELSE!?
WIPE
WIPE
DID HE LEAVE?
I can't sense him
WHERE'S THAT BLONDE MONSTER?
COWER
おど
おど
COWER
NERVOUS
THUMP THUMP
...LAZ.
What're you doing?
SENSEI'S NOT IN HERE, IF YOU WERE...
PEEK
UH... NO, IT'S... NOT ABOUT SHIKIMI...
WH-WHERE!?
He stayed over
UNFORTUNATELY, NO. HE'S STILL HERE.
HUH!?
WHERE IS...
Haven't seen him before? I haven't seen you since yesterday
Hey, here you
BEHIND YOU.
Heh heh heh
WAAAAH !!
TMP TMP TMP

IN MY OPINION...
I DON'T THINK YOU'D BE ABLE TO KILL SOMEONE WHO LOOKS HUMAN, EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT.
ESPECIALLY NOT SOMEONE YOU KNEW...
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I? THAT WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME...
...YOU FEAR THE TRUTH.
...IT WON'T BE LONG NOW...
...UNTIL THE DAY...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL HIM.

BUT, YOU ARE.
YOU FEAR MY VERY EXISTENCE.
WHY SHOULD I BE AFRAID OF YOU?
YOU'RE BRAVE.
YOU CERTAINLY DON'T SEEM FRIGHTENED.
!
IRK
NOR THAT YOU'D EVER HAVE TO CONFRONT ONE YOURSELF.
...HAD NEVER OCCURRED TO YOU CORRECT?
THE IDEA THAT THERE ARE CREATURES LIKE ME, WHO MOVE AND TALK AS HUMANS BUT ARE NOT...

.....
SLAM
GRIT
YOU... AND YOUR...
!!!
DON'T YOU DARE THINK I'LL LET IT GET THAT FAR!
I MADE MY PROM-ISE, BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE!
I...
CLENCH

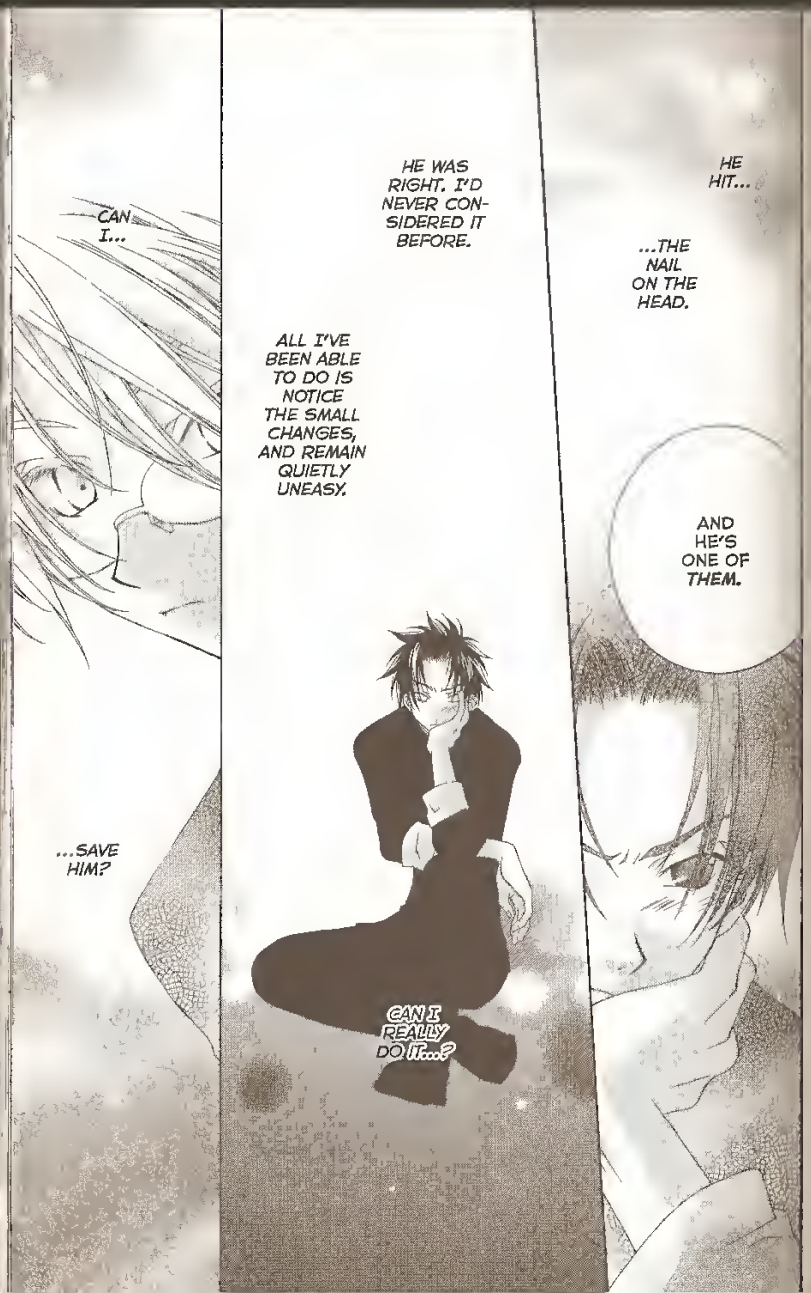
I WONDER ...
...CAN YOU REALLY...
...DO HIM HARM?

I HATE THAT GUY!!
TAKI?
WHAT IS IT? WHEN YOU'RE ENTERING A ROOM, YOU COULD AT LEAST KN—
ガラッ
ガラッ

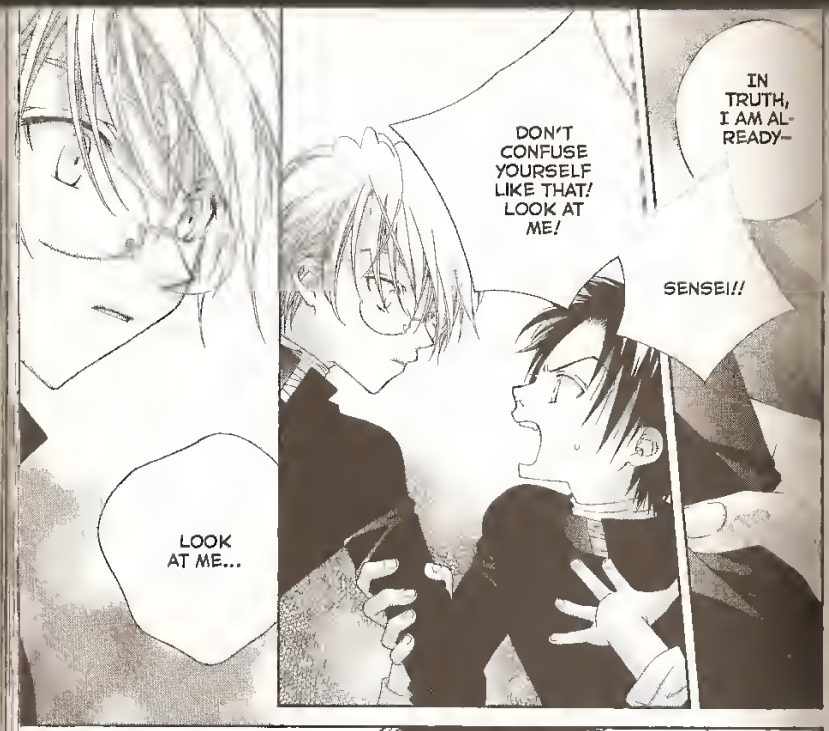
……

TMP TMP TMP TMP
ドキドキ…
YOU REMEMBER THAT, YOU IDIOT!!
I WILL NEVER...

バタバタ TMP TMP TMP TMP
SENSEI !!!
SLAM
!?
びっくり
STARTLE
...LET HIM TURN INTO SOMETHING LIKE YOU!


CAN I...
...SAVE HIM?
HE WAS RIGHT. I'D NEVER CONSIDERED IT BEFORE.
ALL I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO IS NOTICE THE SMALL CHANGES, AND REMAIN QUIETLY UNEASY.
CAN I REALLY DO IT...?
HE HIT...
...THE NAIL ON THE HEAD.
AND HE'S ONE OF THEM.

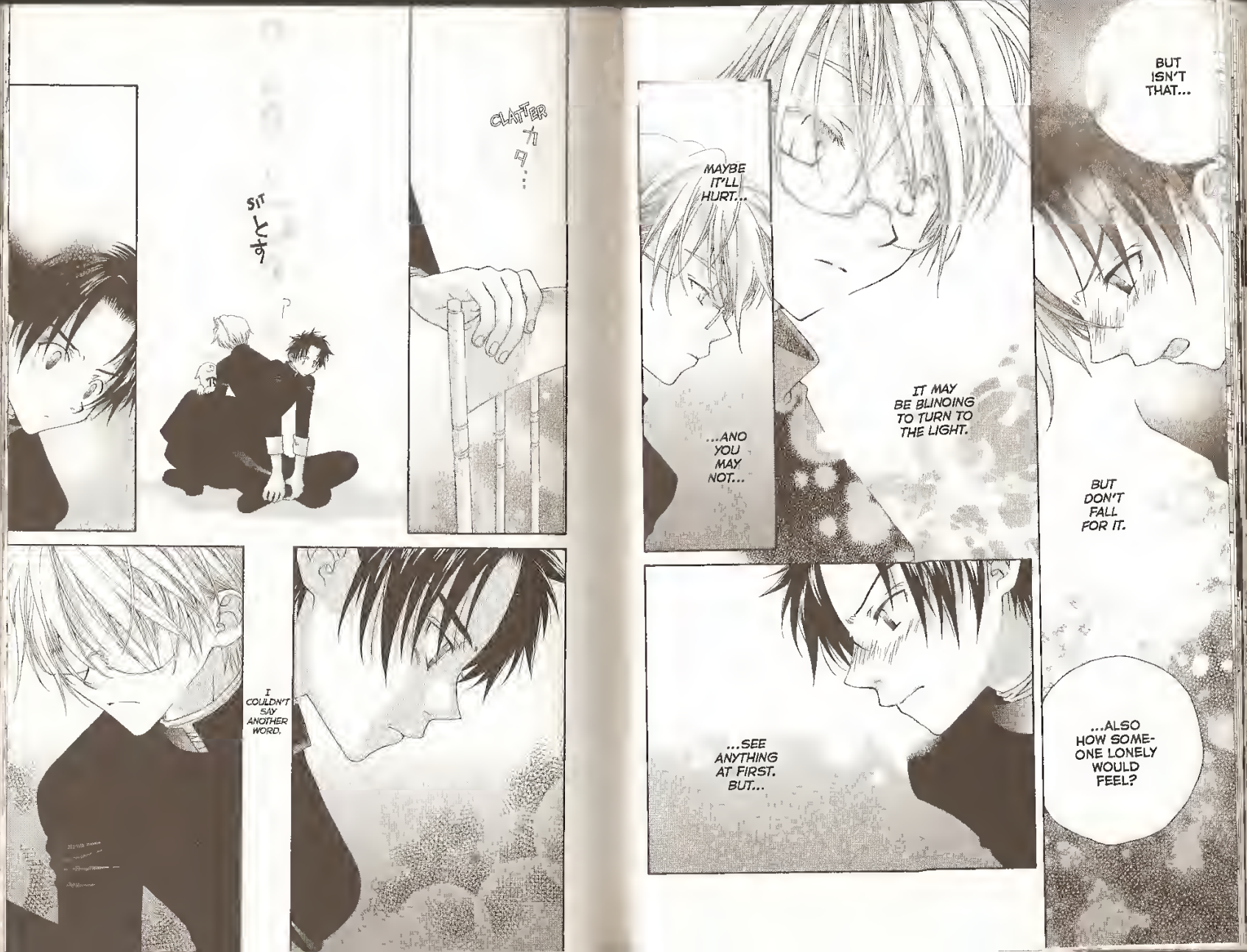
I...
THUD
?
TAKI?
TURN
THAT GUY...
AS THOUGH HE WERE LOOKING RIGHT THROUGH ME...
I HATE HIM.
HE'S SUSPICIOUS.
AS THOUGH HE WAS CLAWING HIS WAY RIGHT INSIDE OF ME...
HE'S CRUEL...
HE'S A JERK.


LOOK AT ME...
DON'T CONFUSE YOURSELF LIKE THAT! LOOK AT ME!
IN TRUTH, I AM AL-READY-
SENSEI!!

!
...ONE OF THEM-
...AM ALREADY ...
TAKI...
...I, ALSO...

...BUT...
I KNOW IT'S HARD TO BE LOST IN THE MIDDLE.
...TEMPTATION.
FEAR AND...
I KNOW THE OTHER SIDE... SEEMS EASIER.
THE SURROUNDING DARKNESS...

PERHAPS YOU HAVE SIMPLY REFUSED TO ACKNOWL-EDGE IT, BUT IN TRUTH-
AREN'T MY HAIR AND EYES COMPLETELY SILVER? AND WHAT OF MY EMOTIONS?
HOW AM I WRONG?
YOU'RE WRONG! YOU'RE STILL-


CLATTER
カラ…
SIT
すわ
?
I COULDN'T SAY ANOTHER WORD.
MAYBE IT'LL HURT...
...AND YOU MAY NOT...
IT MAY BE BLINDING TO TURN TO THE LIGHT.
...SEE ANYTHING AT FIRST. BUT...
BUT ISN'T THAT...
BUT DON'T FALL FOR IT.
...ALSO HOW SOMEONE LONELY WOULD FEEL?

宵待つ闇【前篇】

DARKNESS AWAITING NIGHT (PART I)

EVEN IF YOU PUSH ME AWAY...

EVEN IF YOU SHAKE OFF MY HAND...

FOR A LONG WHILE...

...THE TWO OF US SAT IN SILENCE.

HIS BACK WAS WARM, BUT...

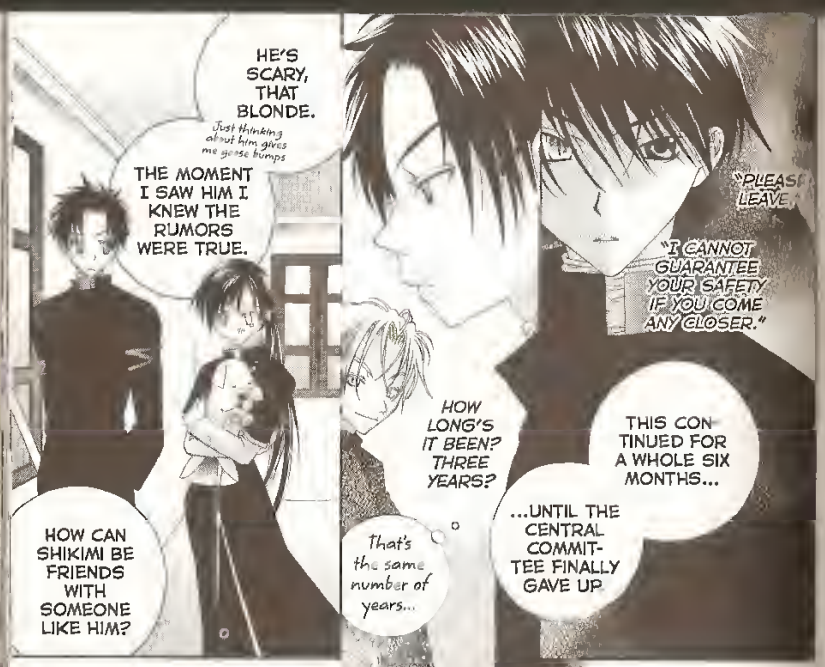
...IN THE END, SENSEI WOULDN'T EVEN...

...ACKNDWLEDGE WHAT I SAID.

DOOR OF LIGHT ✝ END

ひゃ
EE...!
BEHIND YOU.
Eh, heh heh!
H... HE'S STILL HERE? HE CAN'T BE, RIGHT?
I...I CAN'T SENSE HIM, SO...
TAKI...
WHAT...
...HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU LATELY?
OH, HIM? HE'S STILL HERE.
WHERE IS HE !?
HIDE
ばっ
That look on your face is priceless!
WELL, I CAN'T SAY I DON'T.
MY MY, AREN'T YOU JUST TOO CUTE?
You sadist
YOU... ENJOY THIS, DON'T YOU?
!!!!!!
Where'd you sprout out from?
Guess he can't form words
HEH HEH!
Anyway
WHERE'S SENSEI?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THIS MORNING.
AGAIN?
HE WENT TO TOWN. HE SAID HE'D BE RIGHT BACK.
THUMP THUMP THUMP
PEEK
SNEAK
SNEAK
SHOCK
!!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, LAZ...?
This is Sensei's library

YOU'RE ONE OF US, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FEEL IT LIKE I CAN! HE'S DANGER-OUS!
YEAH?
Well I'm really just an assis tant
SURE. I FEEL SOMETHING FROM HIM... BUT IT'S MORE LIKE HOW HE'S KINDA CREEPY AND HE RE-ALLY WEIRDS ME OUT A LITTLE...
YOU ...!!
AND ANYWAY, AREN'T YOU A DEMON SLAYER? YOU EAT GUYS LIKE HIM FOR BREAKFAST. WHY ARE YOU SO-
THAT'S JUST IT!!
YOU SHOULD BE SCARED, TOO! CAN'T YOU TELL WHAT KIND OF POWER WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE!?
YOU'RE THAT AFRAID OF HIM?
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S DOING ANYTHING. HE'S JUST ANNOYING.
Like. Dude. you're inside now. take off the coat already!"
AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF ANYTHING?
YEAH, I'M...
Nah,
HA HA HA HA HA...
You're stretching it
YOU'RE THE WEIRD ONE, HERE.
EVEN SO, HE'S A FAMOUS DEMON.
In our circle
BUT I'VE HEARD OF HIM BEFORE. AND...
...HE WAS INVOLVED IN THAT INCIDENT THREE YEARS AGO.
I'm not usually scared of anything
EVER SINCE THEN...
HE'S BEEN GOING OUT A LOT LATELY.
I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO.
He's gone to places like the public office and such...
LATELY...
...HE'S BEEN A LITTLE OOO.
WHAT COULD IT BE...?
SQUEEZE
HUG
Whoa!
...LAZ.
He's awful soft for a guy
You're making Agi copy you
WOULD YOU LET GO OF ME ALREADY?
...BUT...
Shikimi's not here so
I DON'T KNOW WHEN HE'LL SNEAK UP ON ME AGAIN!
That guy I mean
SQUEEZE

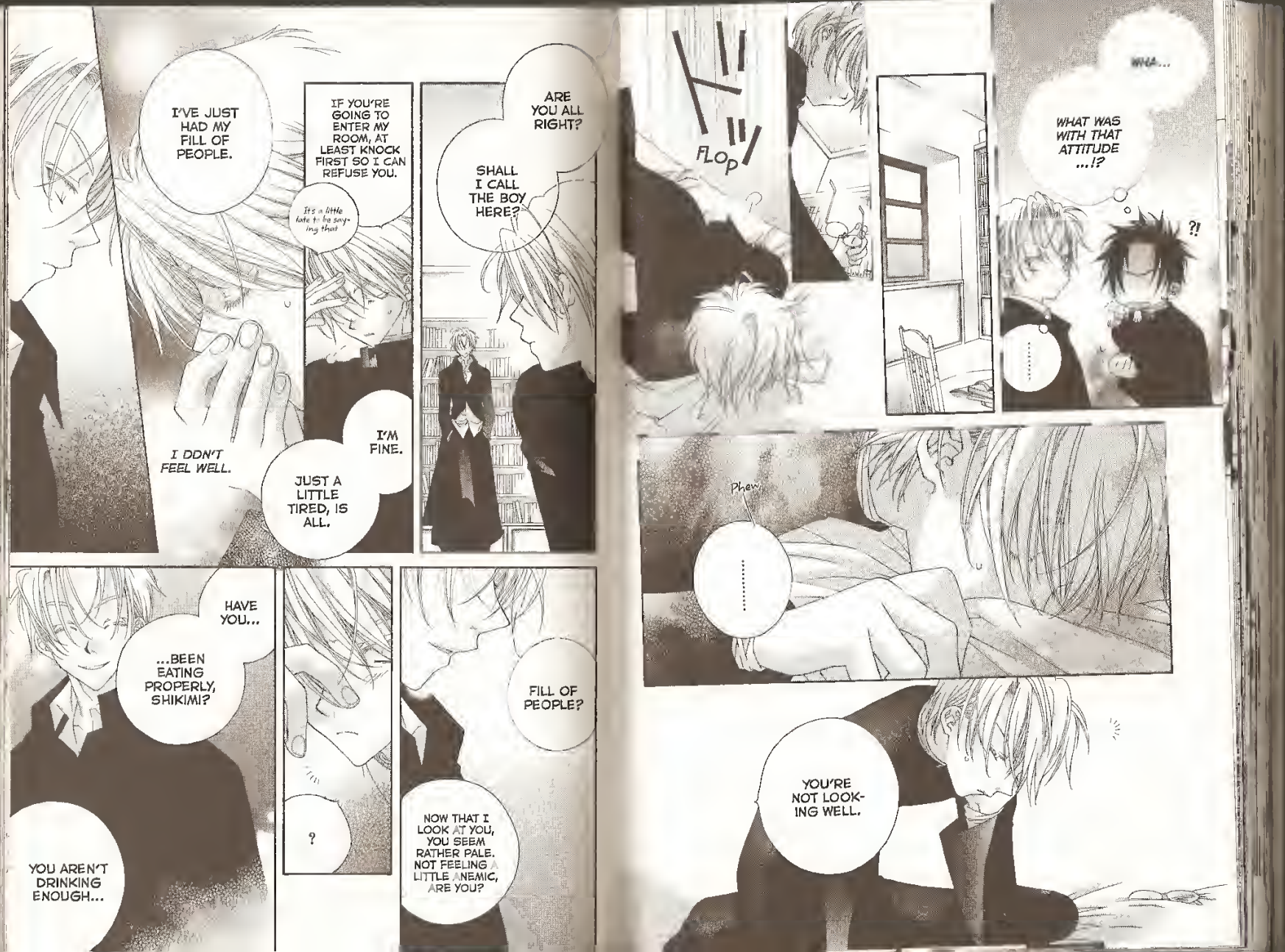

HE'S SCARY, THAT BLONDE.
Just thinking about him gives me goose bumps
THE MOMENT I SAW HIM I KNEW THE RUMORS WERE TRUE.
HOW CAN SHIKIMI BE FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE LIKE HIM?
"PLEASE LEAVE."
"I CANNOT GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER."
HOW LONG'S IT BEEN? THREE YEARS?
That's the same number of years...
THIS CONTINUED FOR A WHOLE SIX MONTHS...
...UNTIL THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FINALLY GAVE UP.

UWAAAAH!!
AH.
Sensei
WELCOME BACK...
SHIKIMI !!
HALT
STOP!
WITH HIM BY HIS SIDE, I CAN'T COME NEAR HIM AT ALL.
I WAS PLANNING ON CLINGING TO HIM ALL DAY TODAY...
LICK
LICK
I OBJECT.
To that plan

SINCE SHIKIMI REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE SUMMONS, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECIDED TO TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY.
SQUEEZE
THEY SAY THAT AS THEY WERE TRYING TO TAKE HIM IN, THEY WERE STOPPED...
...BY A BLONDE, BLUE-EYED DEMON.
THERE WERE NO NAMES MENTIONED, BUT I HEARD RUMORS OF A TERRIBLE DEMON...
THEY SAID IT WAS A TALL, BLONDE... WESTERNER.
I TOLD YOU THAT SHIKIMI WAS UNDER SUSPICION RIGHT?
For what happened
YEAH.

THE PEOPLE SENT TO BRING HIM BACK WERE TURNED AWAY AT THE GATE. SOME ENTERED ANYWAY...
...BUT THOSE THAT DID WERE EITHER NEVER SEEN AGAIN, OR HALF-MAD WHEN THEY RETURNED.
That's what the rumors say
BUT THERE'S ONE THING THEY ALL AGREE ON. SHIKIMI CAME OUT AND STOOD THERE, IGNORING THEIR DEMANDS, AND SAID...

UM...
WELL, UH...
What was it again?
WELCOME BACK.
AH...
PASSす
I'M HOME.
S...SO YOU WENT TO TOWN, EH?
MY, THAT WAS FAST...
TMP TMP TMP
THEY'RE ASKING YOU TO RETURN.
HUH?
NO. I ALREADY QUIT MY POSITION AS DEMON SLAYER.
WHAT... IS THIS?
It was in our P.O. Box.
A LETTER FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.
It's addressed to me.
Ecf
Still not used to holding her. Hold on!
PERHAPS, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW THAT.
Has not her somewhere he can't see her.
Ah.
AW, WHO CARES? I WASN'T EVEN AN OFFICIAL MEMBER, ANYWAY.
NOW, SEE HERE. THERE ARE LEGAL PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW, UNDERSTAND? YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS. IF YOU DON'T...
Welcome home Shikimi
Not again
...I'LL BE FORCED TO HAVE THE MAN STANDING BEHIND YOU ESCORT YOU THERE.
WAA-AAH !!
Shikimi how cute you!
TMP TMP TMP


I'VE JUST HAD MY FILL OF PEOPLE.
I DON'T FEEL WELL.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO ENTER MY ROOM, AT LEAST KNOCK FIRST SO I CAN REFUSE YOU.
It's a little late to be saying that
I'M FINE. JUST A LITTLE TIRED, IS ALL.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SHALL I CALL THE BOY HERE?
HAVE YOU...
...BEEN EATING PROPERLY, SHIKIMI?
YOU AREN'T DRINKING ENOUGH...
?
FILL OF PEOPLE?
NOW THAT I LOOK AT YOU, YOU SEEM RATHER PALE. NOT FEELING A LITTLE ANEMIC, ARE YOU?
FLOP
?
WHA...
WHAT WAS WITH THAT ATTITUDE ...!?
?!
.....
Phew
.....
YOU'RE NOT LOOKING WELL.

FOR SOME REASON...
...IT'S HARD TO JUST GO ON IN.
I'm not Laz
...WHAT IF HE SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT IT?
I'M THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO BRING HIM SOME TEA, SO...
!
PAUSE
YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK AFTER YOUR HEALTH...
...RIGHT?
.....
DEEP BREATH
...FOR A WHILE NOW.
HE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY.
HE'S BEEN ODDLY QUIET...
.....

SENSEI.
KNOCK KNOCK
ARE YOU THERE? I'M COMING IN.
Oh, he is here
K-CLICK
ガチャ
WHAT IS IT?
.....
UH, WELL...
I BROUGHT YOU...SOME TEA.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT SOME.
Um
Uh
It's dark in here
!
Y-YEAH? THAT'S GOOD.
HUH?
YOU'RE RIGHT. THANK YOU.
I AM RATHER THIRSTY.
NOT FEELING A LITTLE ANEMIC, ARE YOU?
IT'S THE OLD SENSEI AGAIN.
WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF.

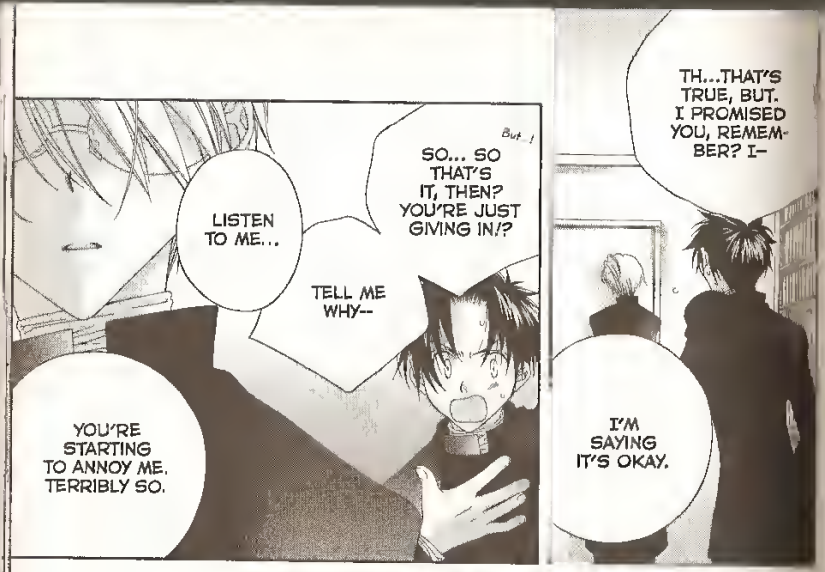
JUST LIKE ALWAYS...
JUST A LITTLE LONGER, JUST LIKE THIS...
THANK YOU.
HERE YOU GO.
I'll leave it here
CLINK
PASS
LIKE IT'S NOTHING...

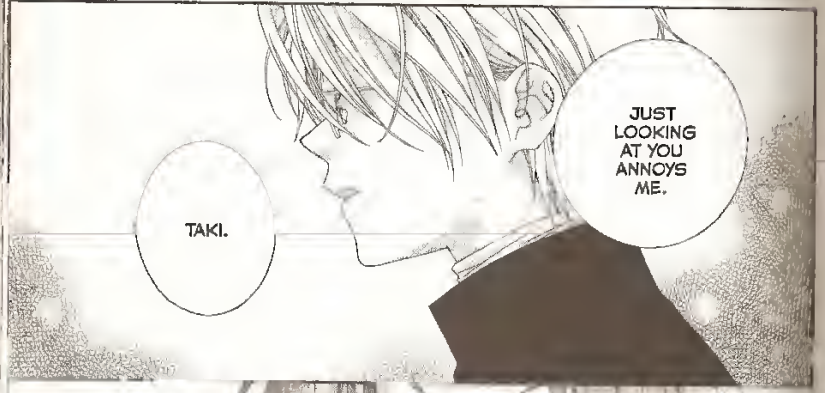
I'M JUST TIRED.
I'M JUST A LITTLE OVER-WHELMED BY ALL THE PEOPLE.
IT'LL BE OKAY.
CLENCH
YOU AREN'T DRINKING ENOUGH...

I'M FINE.

YOU'RE NOT DRINKING ENOUGH...
I SENSE EVERY BEAT... OF HIS HEART.
I CAN FEEL HIS PULSE...
BUT I CAN SMELL IT...
WHOOSH
...BLOOD.
IS THAT SO?
...OF BLOOD?
HE SAID HE WON'T BE GONE LONG, SO WE SHOULD LEAVE HIS ROOM ALONE.
THE SCENT...
BY THE WAY.
LAZ FINALLY WENT HOME A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE.
And... ...right?
...INJURED?
IS TAKI..
That kind of job is... you know?
I GOTTA WONDER IF HE'S REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT QUITTING.
CLACK

YANK
W... WAIT! HEY!
I SAID WAI-
GRAB
SENSEI ...?
!
AND THEN-
SHOVE
!!?
CRASH
WHA ...!?
TUMBLE
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR !?
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG!? SENSEI!?
TURN
HEY, WAIDDA-


LISTEN TO ME...
But...!
SO... SO THAT'S IT, THEN? YOU'RE JUST GIVING IN!?
TELL ME WHY--
YOU'RE STARTING TO ANNOY ME. TERRIBLY SO.
TH...THAT'S TRUE, BUT. I PROMISED YOU, REMEMBER? I--
I'M SAYING IT'S OKAY.


TAKI.
JUST LOOKING AT YOU ANNOYS ME.

HUH!?
RETURN HOME.
TAKI.
YOU...
THAT'S ENOUGH.

IN THESE PAST SIX MONTHS, YOU'VE PAID BACK MOST OF IT.
AND YOU'VE DONE WELL, SO I'LL OVERLOOK THE REST.
SENSEI?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I HAVEN'T FINISHED PAYING OFF MY DAD'S DEBTS--
IT'S OKAY.

I DON'T NEED YOU.

SILENTLY...

...I AWAIT THE DARKNESS OF THE COMING NIGHT.

DARKNESS AWAITING NIGHT (PART II)

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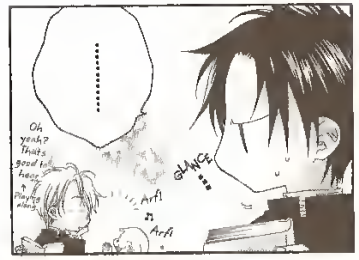
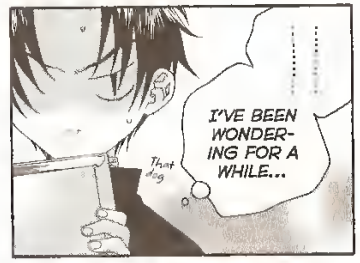
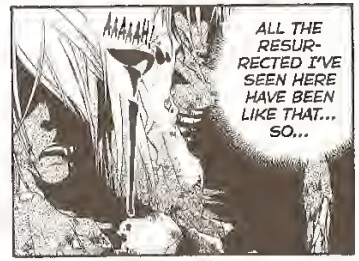
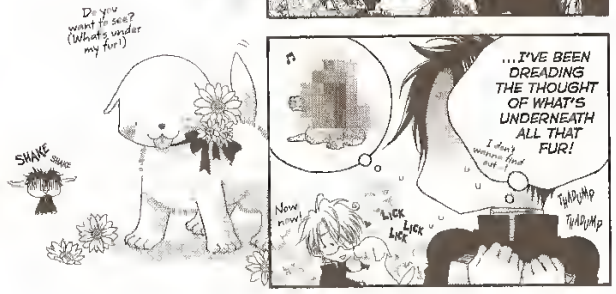
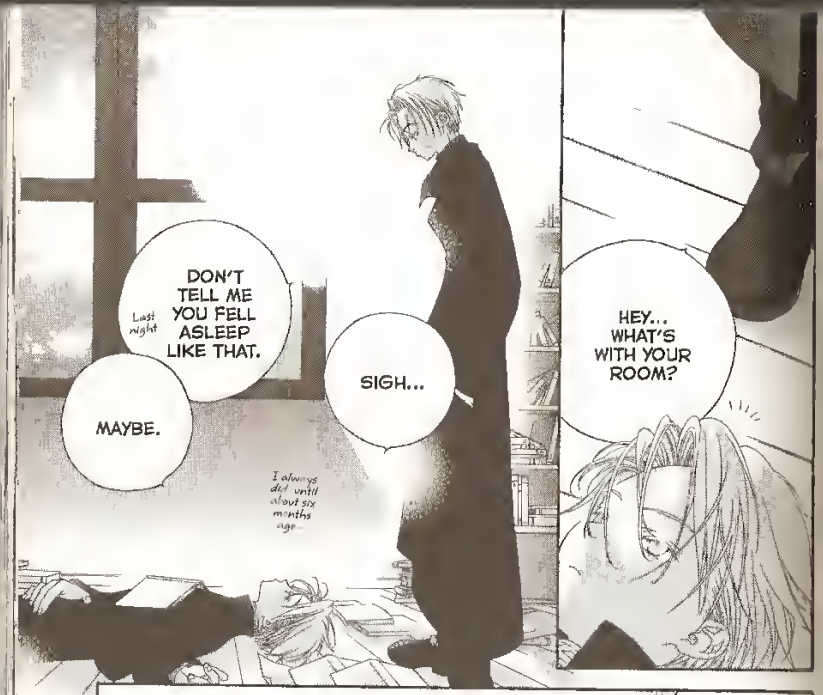
A Puppy's Secret

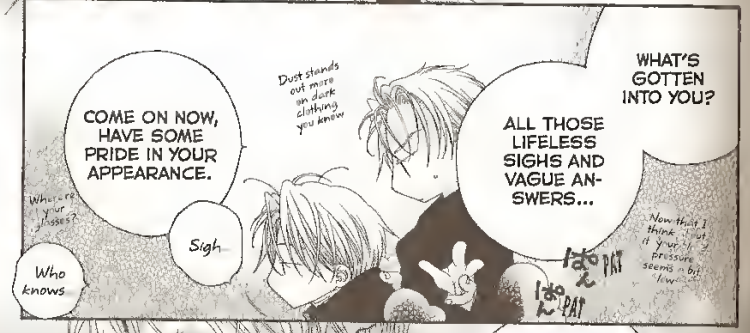







Do you want to see? (What's under my fur!)
SHAKE
Now, now!
LICK LICK LICK
...I'VE BEEN DREADING THE THOUGHT OF WHAT'S UNDERNEATH ALL THAT FUR!
I don't wanna find out
THUMP THUMP


DON'T TELL ME YOU FELL ASLEEP LIKE THAT.
Last night
SIGH...
MAYBE.
I always did until about six months ago.
HEY... WHAT'S WITH YOUR ROOM?


COME ON NOW, HAVE SOME PRIDE IN YOUR APPEARANCE.
Dust stands out more on dark clothing you know
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
ALL THOSE LIFELESS SIGHS AND VAGUE ANSWERS...
Where're your glasses?
Sigh
Who knows
Now that I think about it your blood pressure seems a bit low...
ばん PAT
ばん PAT

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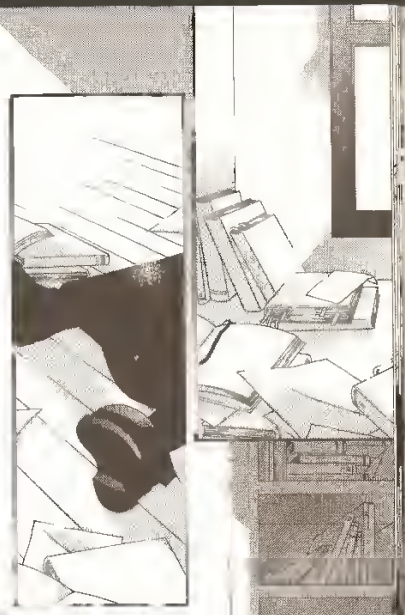
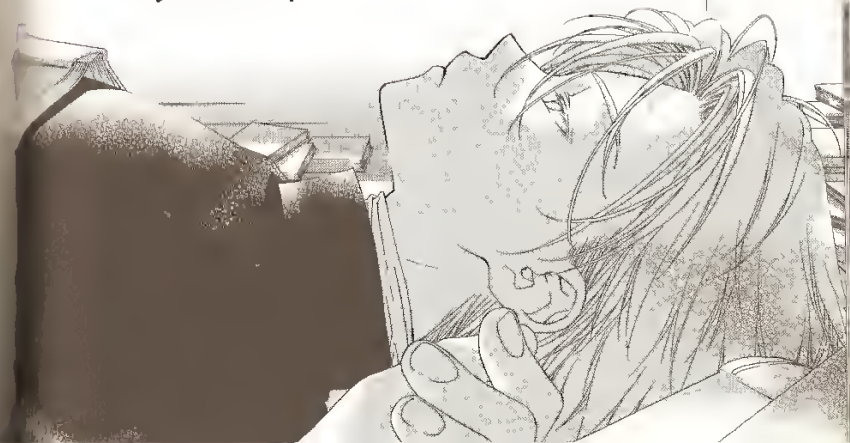
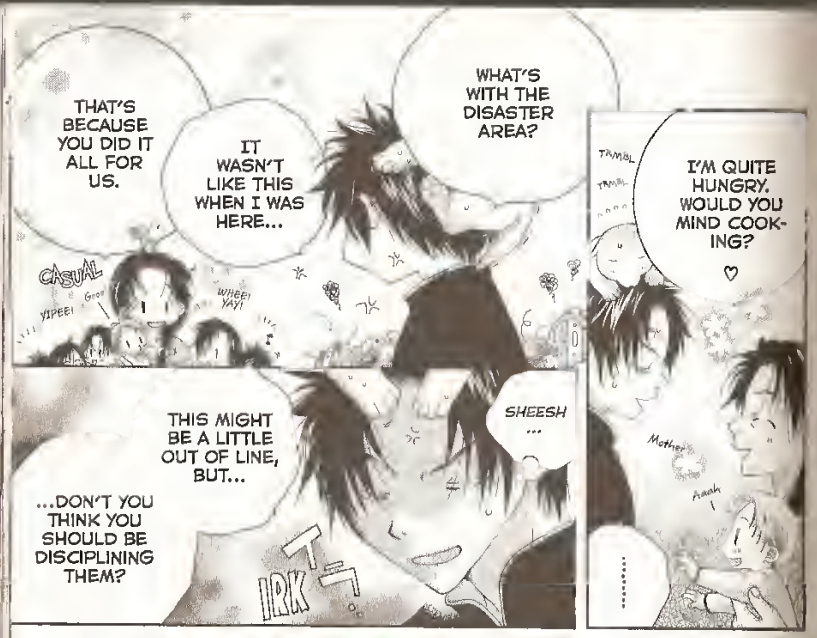
【後篇】

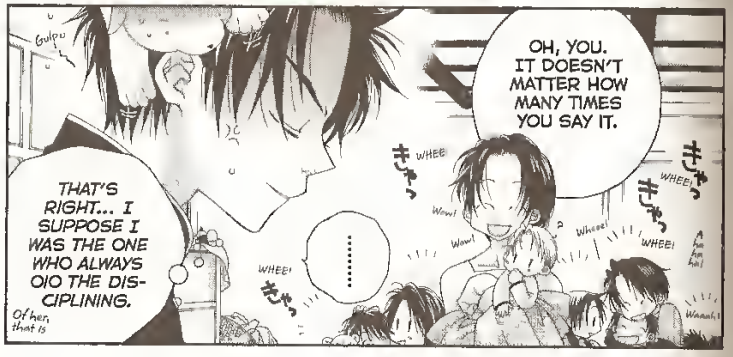
DARKNESS AWAITING NIGHT (PART II)

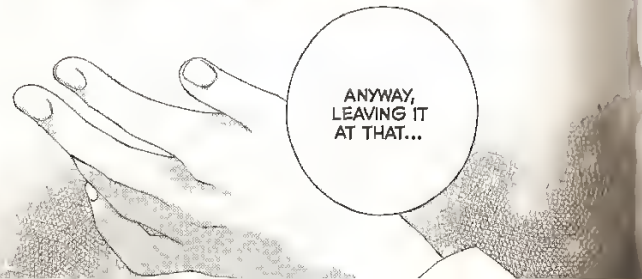




AND SPEAKING OF TAKI, AT JUST ABOUT THAT MOMENT...
JUHAS HOUSEHOLD
(Taki's house)
HEY, ONII-CHAN!
PLAY WITH US! PLAY WITH US!
NII-CHAN!
SQUEAL
CLAMOUR
...THIS WAS HIS SITUATION.
.....
SPEAK-ING OF WHICH...
IT'S AWFULLY QUIET AROUND HERE. WHERE'D THE KIDS GO?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND FOR A WHILE. WHERE WERE YOU?
EATING. I WENT OUT A WAYS.
WHAT ABOUT THE BOY?
HE WENT HOME.
K-CLICK
IT'D BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE TAKI LEFT THE CHURCH.
SHUT
UH...


THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DID IT ALL FOR US.
IT WASN'T LIKE THIS WHEN I WAS HERE...
WHAT'S WITH THE DISASTER AREA?
CASUAL
YIPEE!
Grab
WHEE! YAY!
THIS MIGHT BE A LITTLE OUT OF LINE, BUT...
...DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE DISCIPLINING THEM?
SHEESH ...
IRK
I'M QUITE HUNGRY. WOULD YOU MIND COOKING? ♡
TAMBL
TAMBL
Mother
Aaah!
.....


Gulpu
OH, YOU. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU SAY IT.
THAT'S RIGHT... I SUPPOSE I WAS THE ONE WHO ALWAYS DID THE DISCIPLINING.
Of her, that is
WHEE!
Wow!
Whee!
Aaaah!
.....


ANYWAY, LEAVING IT AT THAT...

WHAAAAT?
FIRST CLEAN UP THIS ROOM!!
DON'T GIVE ME "WHAAAAT?"!! WHAT IS WITH THIS MESS!?
MESS...
Laundry

LISTEN, YOU GUYS.
I KNOW YOU ALL WANNA PLAY WITH ME, BUT BEFORE WE DO-

WELL, WELL...
WHY ARE YOU CLEANING? YOU JUST GOT HOME, TAKI.
WHINE
WHINE
I'll let you play with the dog one at a time after you guys finish your chores! Now clean!!
What would company think if they saw this!? Put things back when you're done!! That should be common sense!
WHINE
WHINE

He only just got home
TO CELEBRATE YOUR RETURN, WE'LL HAVE A HOME-COOKED MEAL FOR DINNER!
MOTHER...
I'm home
YOU'RE FINALLY ON VACATION, LEAVE THE CHORES FOR LATER.

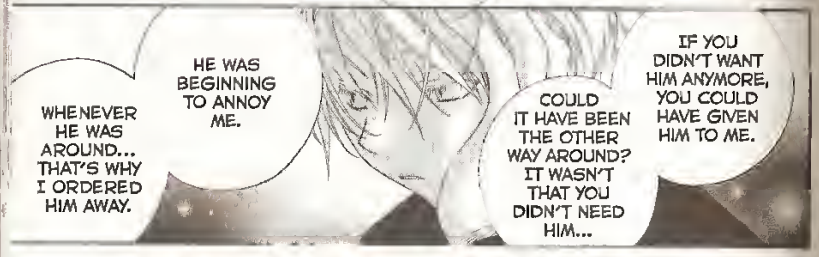
...RIGHT...
UH...
OH.
SINCE YOU'VE FINALLY COME BACK HOME, JUST RELAX FOR A WHILE.
I TAKE IT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY WITH US FOR LONG RIGHT?
...I WOULDN'T REALLY CALL IT THAT.
A VACATION, EH?

I DON'T...

...NEED YOU.

AFTER ALL, OUR HOME WAS POOR. STILL...
I TRIED TO BRING IT UP TO YOU COUNTLESS TIMES. HONESTLY.
BUT I ALWAYS GAVE UP.
...I WAS WAITING FOR THE DAY YOU'D BRING HER HOME WITH YOU.
BUT YOU NEVER MENTIONED HER OR TOLD ME YOU WANTED TO KEEP HER.
HONESTLY, I WAS RATHER WORRIED THAT YOU'D BE SCARRED FOR LIFE...
...BUT IT SEEMS YOU'VE TURNED OUT WELL SINCE YOU'VE TAKEN YOUR NEW JOB.
SHE LOOKS A LOT LIKE THAT BLACK PUPPY YOU HAD, DOESN'T SHE?
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE HER BECAUSE I LIKE HER OR ANYTHING...
WELL, SHE SEEMS AWFULLY ATTACHED TO YOU.
SHE'S A CUTIE.
IS SHE YOUR DOG?
YEAH, KINDA...
WHAT, YOU DIDN'T THINK YOUR MOTHER KNEW ABOUT THAT?
...HUH?
YOU SHARED YOUR FOOD WITH IT IN SECRET, DIDN'T YOU?
THE WAY YOU'D HIDE FOOD BY YOUR BELLY, IT WAS A NIGHTMARE WASHING IT OUT OF YOUR CLOTHES...

SUCH A WASTE.
Heh.
THEY WERE BOTH SO ADORABLY ATTACHED TO YOU.
OF COURSE. AND I SUPPOSE IT'S A COINCIDENCE THAT THE LETTER ARRIVED WHEN IT DID.
You were up in town for quite a while.
THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, I'M SURE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU GET IT?
I hadn't mentioned it before.
SO YOU SENT THEM BOTH AWAY, HUH?
But they were interesting...
LAZ LEFT BECAUSE HE WAS SUMMONED.


WHENEVER HE WAS AROUND... THAT'S WHY I ORDERED HIM AWAY.
HE WAS BEGINNING TO ANNOY ME.
COULD IT HAVE BEEN THE OTHER WAY AROUND? IT WASN'T THAT YOU DIDN'T NEED HIM...
IF YOU DIDN'T WANT HIM ANYMORE, YOU COULD HAVE GIVEN HIM TO ME.

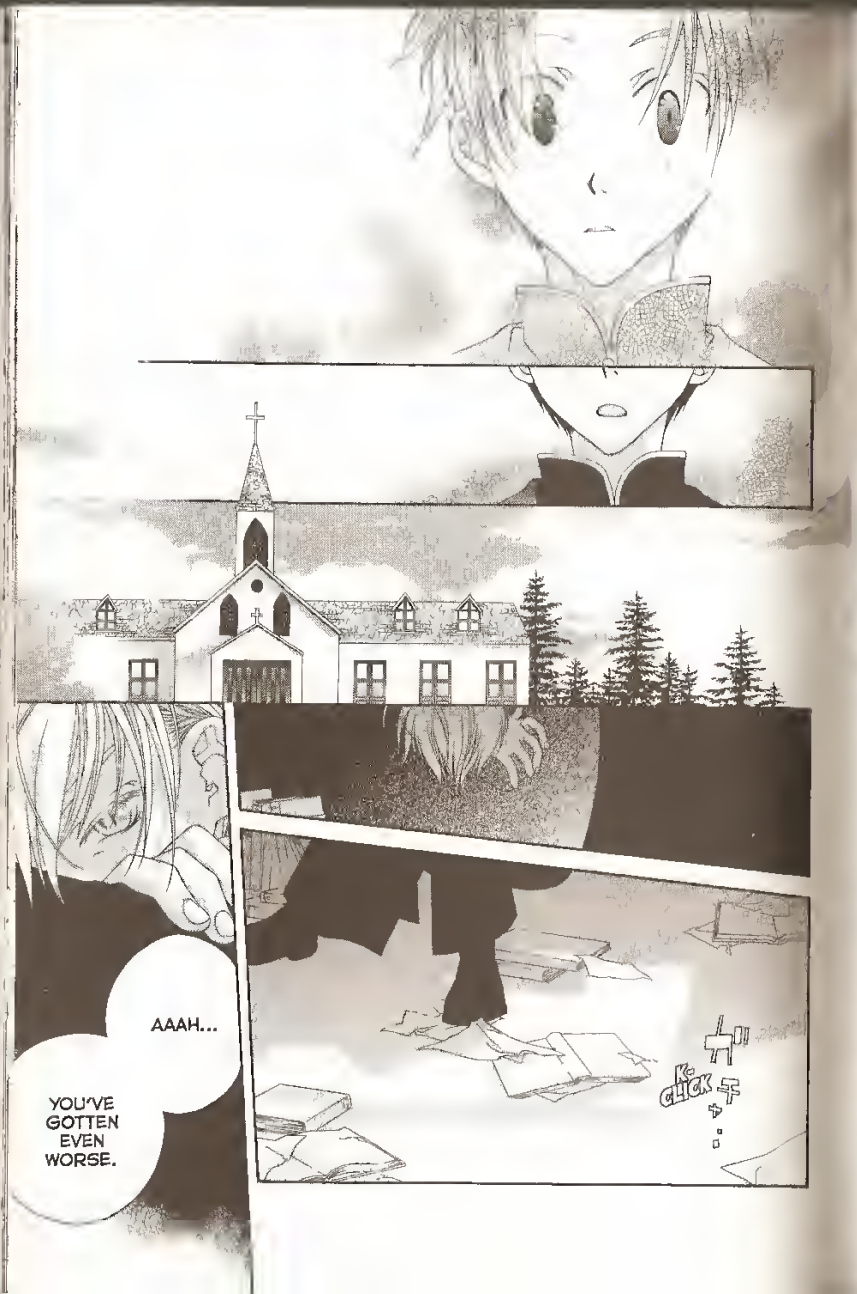
.....
I DON'T THINK YOU ARE, SHIKIMI.
IS IT WORKING? ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
HMM... AND?

MOTHER...
I...
.....
TAKI?

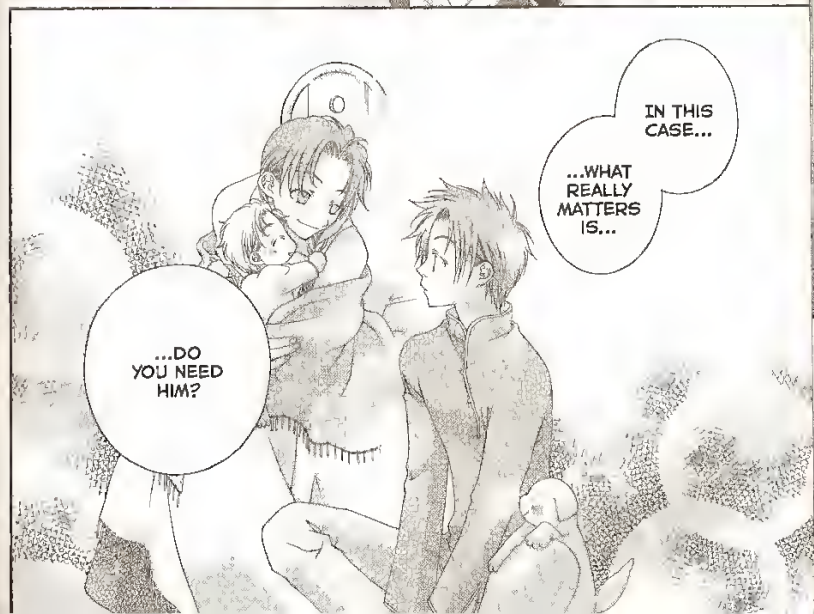
I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T NEED HIM ANYMORE.
I GET IT.

I THOUGHT...
...I WAS DOING A GOOD JOB.
I WONDER IF I DID SOMETHING WRONG...?
.....
BLUSH
...THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO BE SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT.
THE MORE YOU SUPPRESS IT, THE GREATER THE RECOIL.
YOU KNOW...
LOW BLOOD SUGAR...
...HAS THE TENDENCY TO MAKE ONE SHORT-TEMPERED AND GROUCHY.
IT'S JUST AS TRUE FOR CREATURES LIKE YOU AND ME.
...I...
HE SAID HE DIDN'T NEED ME ANYMORE, SO...
...HE TOLD ME TO LEAVE. BUT, HONESTLY...

I...
UP UNTIL NOW, I HAD BEEN NEEDED.
TO PAY BACK MY FATHER'S DEBT...
TO LEND MY ABILITY...
...AND TO KEEP MY PROMISE.
I...
...TO BE HIS STRENGTH.
...THAT WHAT I REALLY WANT IS...
...WAS SO SHOCKED, I DIDN'T REALIZE...
WHEN HE TOLD ME HE DIDN'T NEED ME ANYMORE, I...
REGARDLESS...
...OF IF HE SAID HE DOESN'T NEED YOU...
...HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?
WELL?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
BLUSH
WHAT DO YOU...
...WANT TO DO, TAKI?
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT LIKE THAT?
IT'S NOT ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT HE NEEDS YOU.
DO YOU WANT TO BE NEEDED?


AAAH...
YOU'VE GOTTEN EVEN WORSE.
Ke CHICK

"AN UNWANTED CHILD."
YOU'RE SO SILLY. WHY IS IT SO HARD?
IF HE TELLS ME AGAIN THAT HE DOESN'T NEED ME...
...WHAT'LL I DO?
BUT... I'M SCARED.
I WANT TO BE...
...A LIFELINE FOR HIM.
BUT...


...DO YOU NEED HIM?
IN THIS CASE...
...WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS...

YOU SHOULD JUST RELENT ALREADY. JOIN THIS SIDE.
I'M SAYING THIS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, SHIKIMI.
OTHERWISE, I'D SUGGEST YOU RUN...
WHAT IT WILL DO... IS CAUSE EXCRUCIATING PAIN. UNBEARABLE THIRST.
IT WOULD BE WISE OF YOU TO JUST STOP THIS FUTILE RESISTANCE.
...BEFORE YOU DO SOMETHING YOU'LL REALLY REGRET.
HEH
THAT PAW...
OH, BUT IT MIGHT...
HUH?
WHAT...?
HOW COLD.
AS YOUR FRIEND, I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
Even this counts
HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN SOME? YOU SEEM SLUGGISH.
You're a walking corpse, what you know?
PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE.
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.
YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THAT FOR A WEEK NOW.
HAVE YOU SLEPT AT ALL? YOU'RE SITTING IN THE EXACT SAME SPOT I LEFT YOU IN YESTERDAY.
Tch, there's dust everywhere
THIS ISN'T VERY HEALTHY, SHIKIMI.
I ASKED YOU TO PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE.
YOU KNOW, I COULD RUN OUT AND GET YOU TWO OR THREE PEOPLE TO—
TRYING TO ENDURE THEM WILL JUST WEAR YOU OUT.
THE CRAVINGS WILL ALWAYS BE THERE.
THIS WON'T ACTUALLY KILL YOU, YOU KNOW.
NOT LIKE I CARE, EITHER WAY.
FINE.
PLOD PLOD
I got him angry
Well

TAKI...!!
I WON'T LISTEN TO YOUR COMPLAINTS WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT IS IRRELEVANT.
IF YOU INSIST THAT YOU DON'T NEED ME, THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE MYSELF NEEDED.
TCH!
AND JUST HOW DON'T YOU NEED ME? LOOK AT THIS PLACE! THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I'M NOT AROUND!
YOU'RE SO INCOMPETENT AT EVEN LIVING! SOMEONE TO LOOK AFTER YOU IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED!
WHY DID YOU COME BACK HERE?
I TOLD YOU ALREADY, I DON'T NEED YOU ANY MORE.
GO BACK HOME AT ONCE!
BECAUSE I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL YOU'RE OKAY!
I'M STUBBORN AND I CAN BE JUST AS BOSSY AS YOU ARE, AND I'M TELLING YOU NOW...
...THE MORE YOU HATE ME, THE LONGER I'LL STICK AROUND!
IF YOU REALLY WANT ME TO GO AWAY, YOU'D BETTER WORK DAMN HARD AT BEING HUMAN!
AND DON'T THINK THOSE PUPPY-DOG EYES WILL CHANGE MY MIND!
TAKI!?
HEY. I'm home
You'll see him later. First we're gonna go over here for a minute. I'm gonna put a ribbon on you!
Where's Sensei?
I TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU FOR SUCH A SHORT TIME...
TA...
...BE TOO LATE FOR THAT ALREADY.
Go over there!
QUIT YOUR YAPPING, YOU MONSTER.
ONE WEEK I'VE BEEN AWAY, ONE WEEK, AND THIS PLACE IS COMPLETELY TRASHED!
Stand up!!
WHAT IS THIS!? HUH!?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
WHA...
ARGH!!
キレた
UGH! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!! WHO HAS TO CLEAN THIS UP, HUH!? ME!!
By myself!!

DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT. I WAS WONDERING WHAT WAS UP WITH YOU.
THANK GOODNESS...
HUH, SO THAT'S IT?
YOU WERE HUNGRY, IS ALL?
I SEE NOW...
!
OKAY... HERE WE GO.
UH-HUH... I SEE. SO, THIS WON'T BE ENOUGH?
YOU... UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?
IT'S FOR WHEN AGI HAS TO EAT.
HUH?
JUST HOW MUCH BLOOD CAN A HUMAN LOSE BEFORE IT GETS BAD?
THAT I MIGHT...
...KILL YOU. DON'T YOU?
TAKI.
Yes?
I GUESS IT'S PRETTY GROSS TO LOOK AT. I COULD SQUEEZE SOME INTO A CUP...
NO, IT'S NOT THAT.
IT'S NOT THAT I HATE YOU. I JUST...
...I CAN'T HOLD ON ANY LONGER!
NO...
I'M SO THIRSTY... IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY...
EVEN NOW, THE SCENT OF HIS BLOOD IS...
IS...
IT'S...
IT'S SO STRANGE ...
HUH.
HOW I SEE YOU...
...WITH THESE SILVER EYES.
YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND.

IT WOULD BE SO EASY TO KILL YOU!!
.....!
STUPID...
ALWAYS THAT SMILE, SO OPTIMISTIC AND STUPID AND CHILDISH... I CAN'T STAND IT...!
AND THAT SMILE!
WHOA... C-CALM DOWN...
You're going too far!
I think he's lost it
IF THERE COMES A TIME WHEN I COULD KILL EVEN YOU...
...THEN I'LL BE BEYOND ANYONE'S HELP.
YET YOU ALWAYS COME UP WITH SOME CRAZY SOLUTION... I'M SICK OF IT!
TAKI...
YOU FOOL!! STUPID TAKI!! IDIOT!!!
S...
SENSEI?
Ha, so he finally said it Jerk
...IDIDT!!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE A LOT BIGGER THAN AGI.
I'D HAVE TO GIVE YOU WAY MORE THAN I GIVE HER. COULD I HAVE MORE TO EAT FROM NOW ON?
I'm growing after big all
Lucy might some meat once a week healthy protein! Hah hah hah
...! YOU...!
WHY CAN'T YOU IMAGINE YOURSELF DYING!?
WELL ...
YOU...
WELL... THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN THAT BAD-
STOP BEING SO SELFISH! YOU NEEDED AN ASSISTANT SO YOU CAME TO ME, REMEMBER!?
DON'T THINK THAT AFTER ALL THAT IT'LL BE SO EASY TO GET RID OF ME!
MAYBE I CAN'T HELP MUCH, BUT I'M GOING TO SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE END!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? IF YOU STAY HERE, YOU'LL DIE!
IT TOOK ME SIX MONTHS TO REALIZE THIS, BUT YOU SIMPLY CANNOT STAY WITH ME!
GO BACK HOME BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!
...FOOL!!
HOW CAN YOU JUST...TRY TO RATIONALIZE IT LIKE THAT!?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT WHEN YOU COULD SO EASILY DIE...!?

YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, CAN YOU? HOW DEATH COULD BRING SALVATION...
COULD YOU LIVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE KNOWING YOU'D KILLED SOMEONE?
I CANNOT... FORCE YOU TO TAINT YOURSELF IN SUCH A WAY. NOT FOR ME.
SO PLEASE...
BUT IF I LEAVE, WHO WILL SAVE YOU?
WILL YOU REALLY BE ABLE TO KILL ME?
ME, WITH THIS HUMAN FORM... WHO'S LIVED WITH YOU FOR SO LONG?
EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW YOU MUST, THAT IT WILL SAVE COUNTLESS OTHER LIVES?
SAVE ME...!
WHY DID YOU COME BACK? AFTER I FINALLY GAVE IN...!
WHEN YOU'RE AROUND... I SEE THE PART OF ME THAT CAN'T GIVE UP. THE PART THAT STILL HAS HOPE. I CAN'T TAKE IT...
SEN...!
NO...
NO, NEVER MIND. GO HOME, QUICKLY NOW.

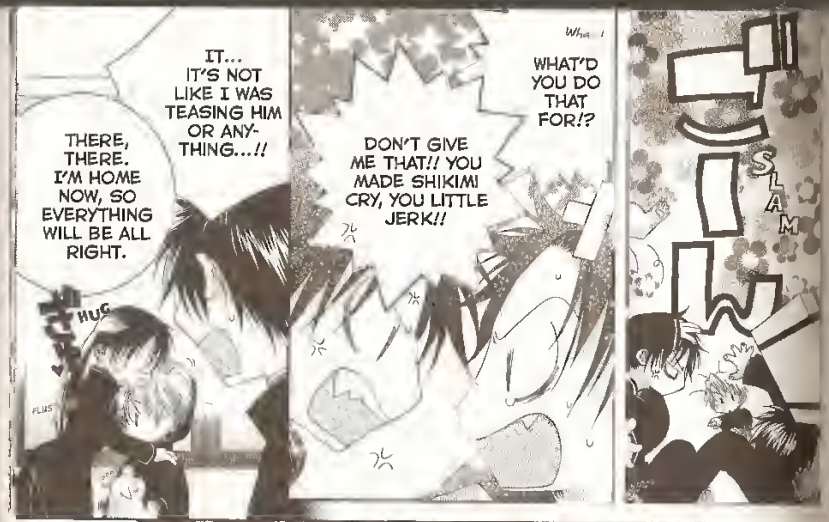
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SO BRIEF...
...I'M HAPPY.
...WILL BE SEEN AS A HUMAN BY EVERYONE.
HIS REAL FACE...
AND...
...I ADMIT THERE'S SOMETHING IN IT FOR ME, TOO.
BECAUSE IF I STAY SOON EVEN THE CRYING HYSTERICAL YOU...
HIS REAL VOICE...

.....

IF YOU EVER TRY TO TAKE SOMEONE'S LIFE...
...I'LL STOP YOU, I SWEAR IT.
I PROMISE, IF YOU EVER LOSE YOURSELF...
ONE MORE TIME...

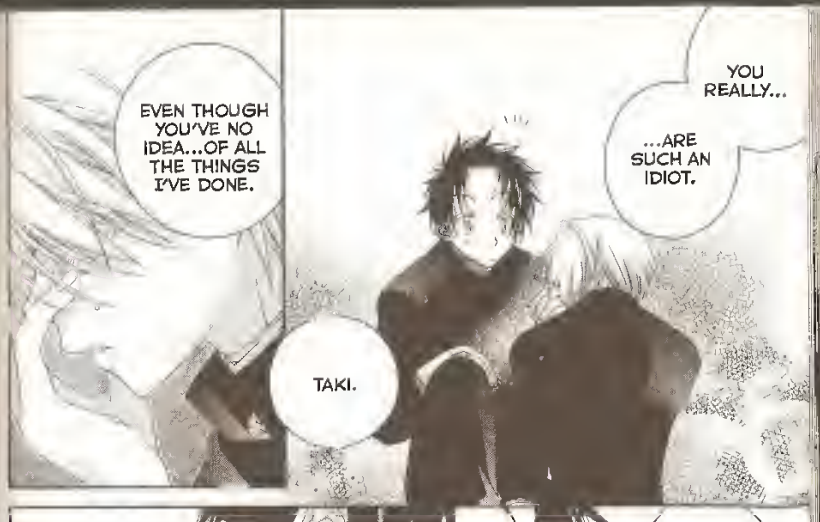
AND I WON'T DIE EITHER, SINCE I HAVE TO BE AROUND TO KEEP THAT PROMISE.
...I WON'T LET YOU KILL ANYONE.
NO MATTER WHAT...

FOR ME TO JUST BELIEVE THAT, WITHOUT ANY PROOF OR REASON?
...ME TO BELIEVE THAT?
YOU EXPECT ...
IT'S FAR BETTER THAN SITTING AROUND IN A MESS BY YOURSELF.
SOMEHOW, EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS...I'M HAPPY.
...YEP.
I'VE GOT IT IN ME. WE'LL BET ON IT.

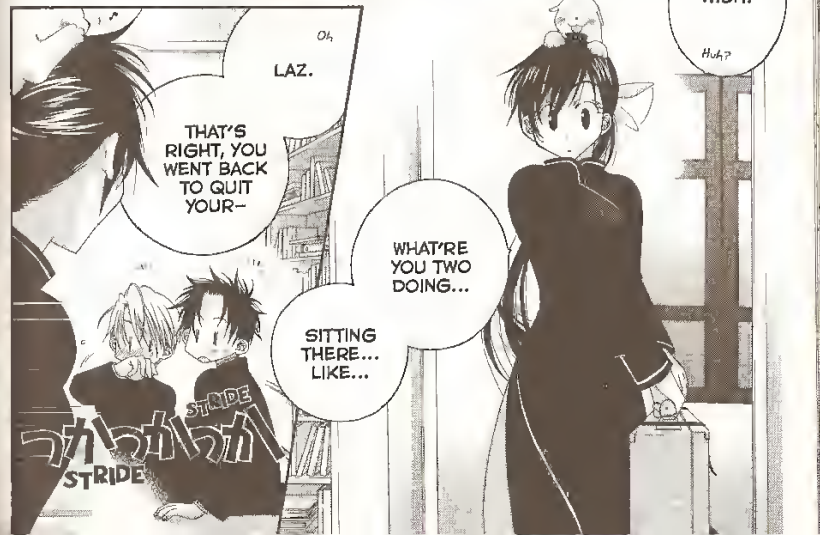

IT... IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS TEASING HIM OR ANY-THING...!!
THERE, THERE. I'M HOME NOW, SO EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
HUG
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR!?
DON'T GIVE ME THAT!! YOU MADE SHIKIMI CRY, YOU LITTLE JERK!!
ゴーン
SLAM

BUT MY ATTITUDE TOWARDS *YOU* HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL!
YOU...! WHAT'S WITH THAT AT-TITUDE!? YOU DID A COM-PLETE TURN-AROUND!
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S JUST LIKE THEY SAY -- LOVE CHANGES YOU!
LICK LICK LICK

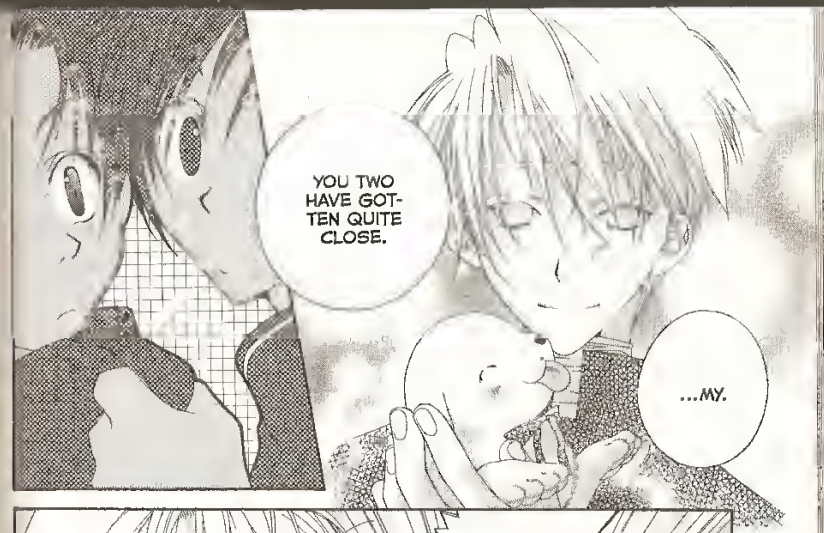
YEAH, WELL YOU–
.....!
YOU BRAT!! YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS, YOU DUMMY!!
HOW EMBAR-RASSING! I CAN'T BELIEVE HE SAID "LOVE"!!
UWAAA!
キャあぁぁEEEEEK!
.....
LICK LICK LICK
"BRAT!?" Well, it takes one to know one!
Who'd ever be jealous of you!?
Shut it!!
Tch!

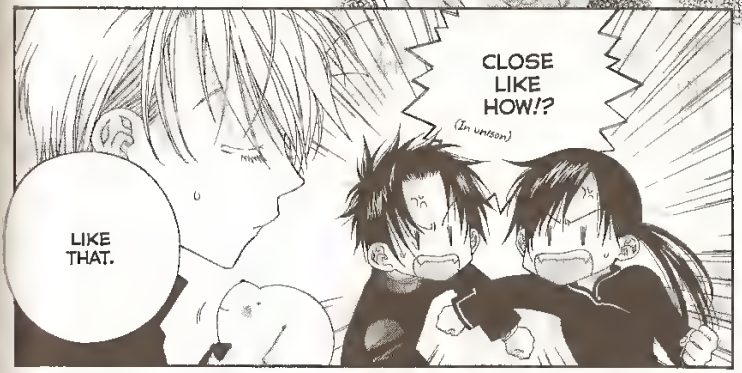

EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE NO IDEA...OF ALL THE THINGS I'VE DONE.
TAKI.
YOU REALLY... ...ARE SUCH AN IDIOT.

I'M HOOOME!
SLAM
SEN–

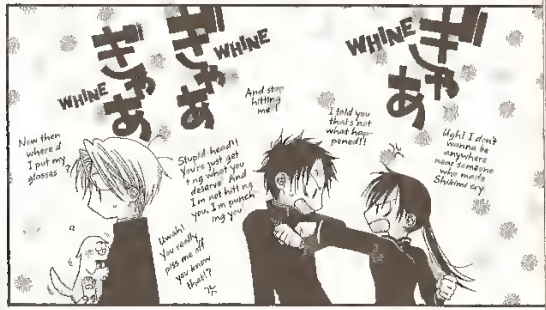

LAZ.
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU WENT BACK TO QUIT YOUR–
WHAT'RE YOU TWO DOING...
SITTING THERE... LIKE...
...UH.
Huh?
Oh,
STRIDE
カっかっか
STRIDE

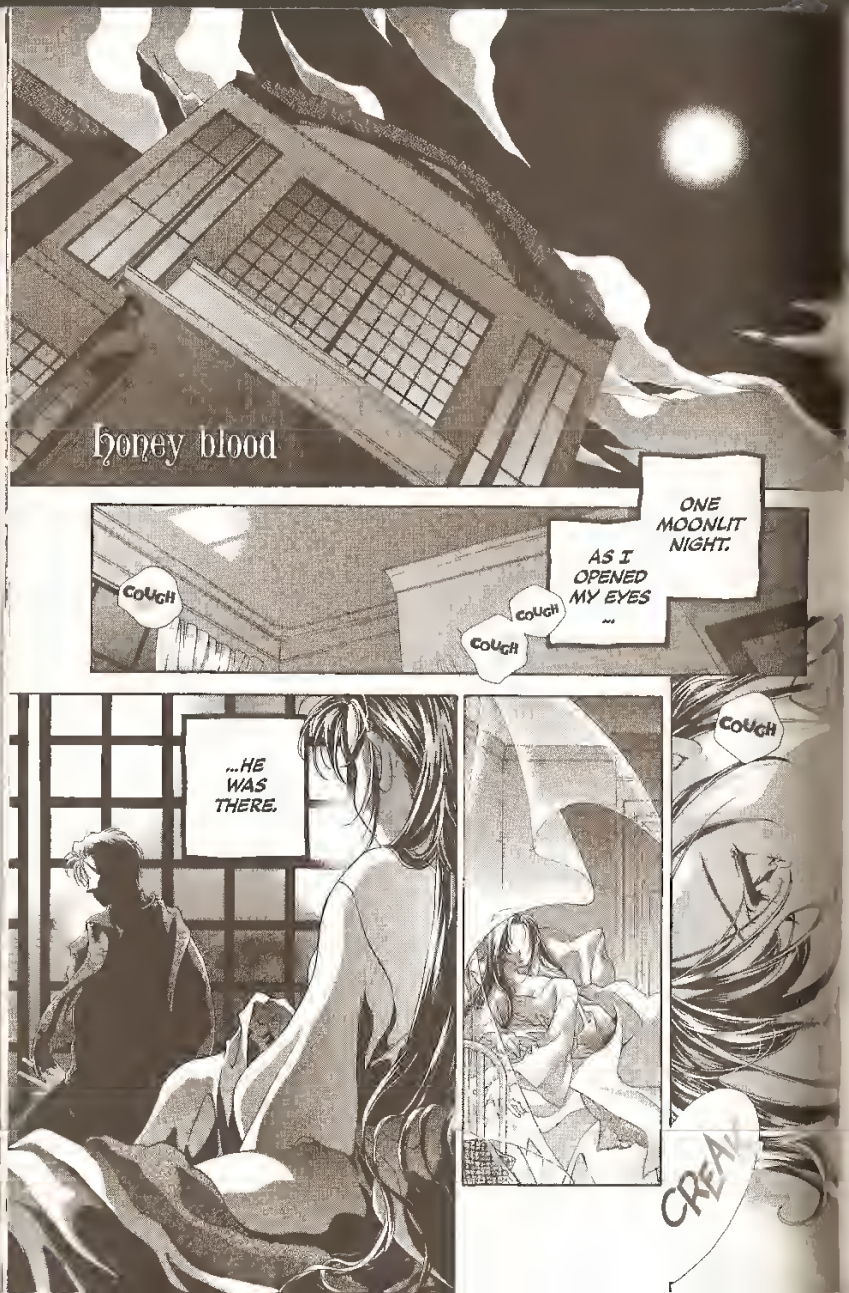
YEAH.
HE'S LOOKING A LITTLE HAPPIER, AM I RIGHT?
PSST
JUST A LITTLE.

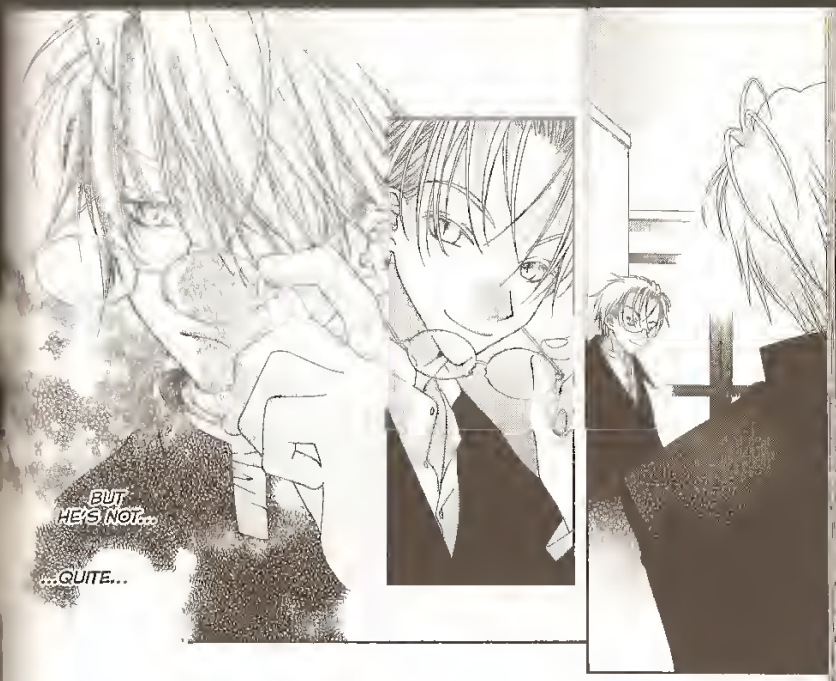

YOU TWO HAVE GOTTEN QUITE CLOSE.
...MY.


CLOSE LIKE HOW!?
(In unison)
LIKE THAT.

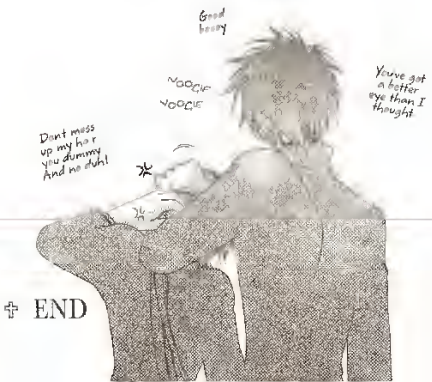
LISTEN, YOU–
ANYWAY!!


WHINE
WHINE
WHINE
Now then where'd I put my glasses
Stupid head! You're just getting what you deserve. And I'm not hitting you. I'm punching you
And stop hitting me!
I told you that's not what happened!!
Ugh! I don't wanna be anywhere near someone who reads Shōjo manga
Uwah! You really put me off you know that!?

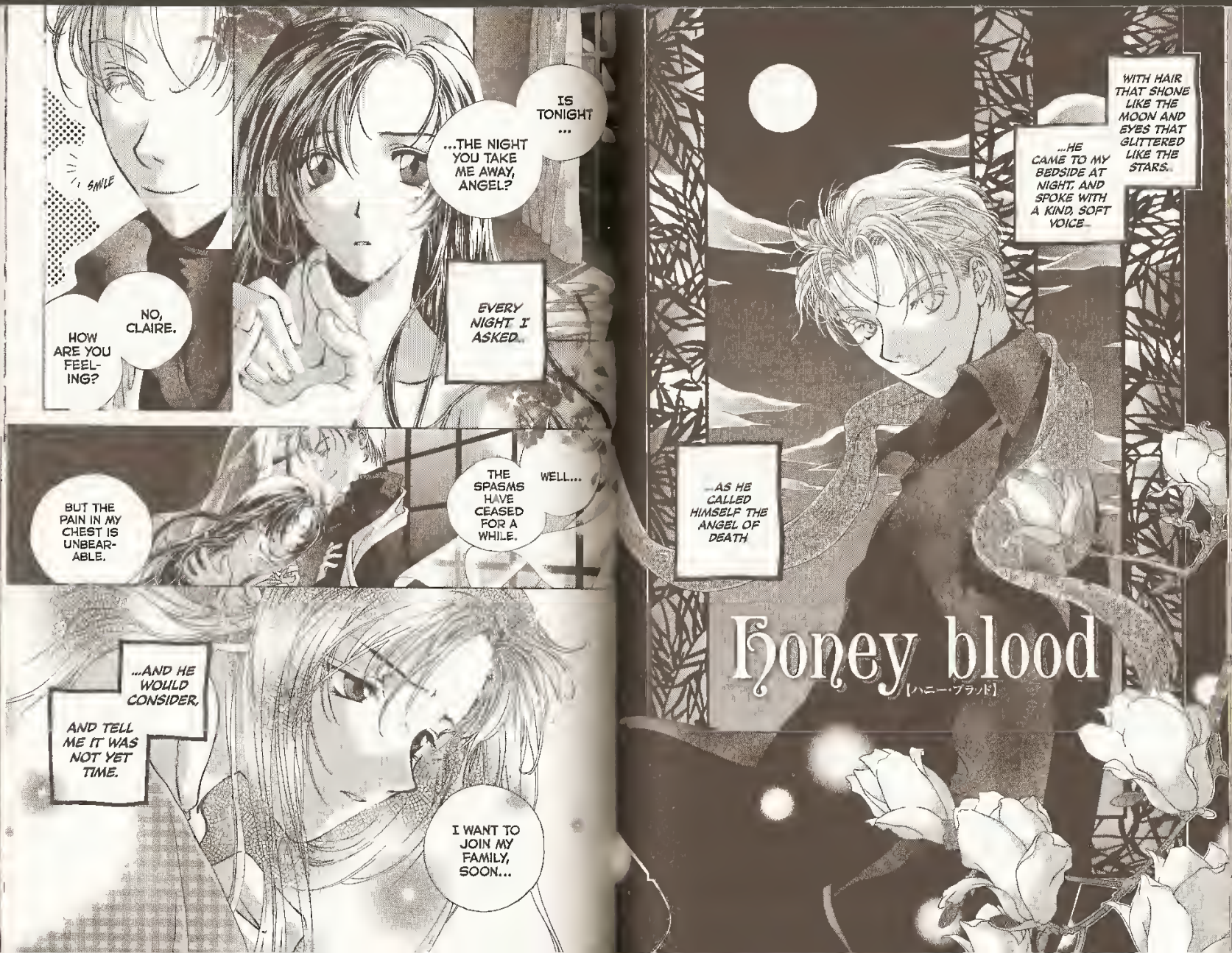




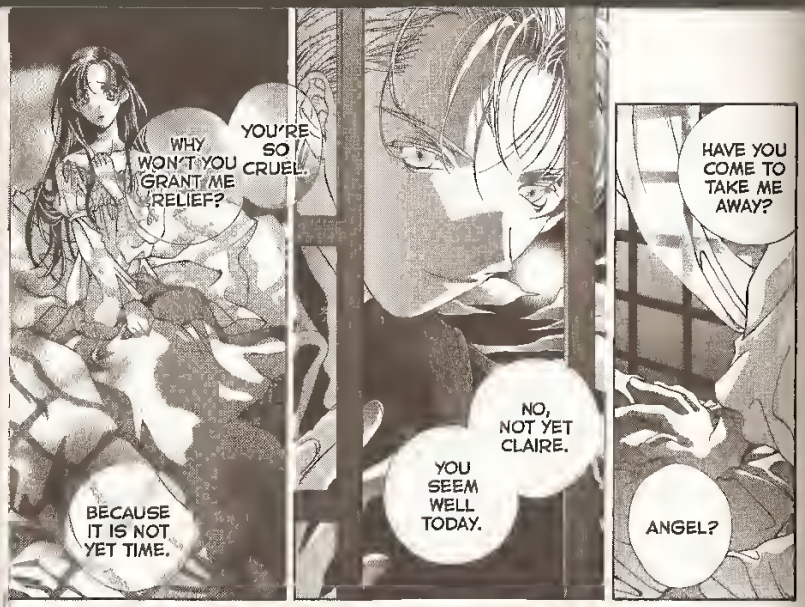
...BACK TO HIS OLD SELF.

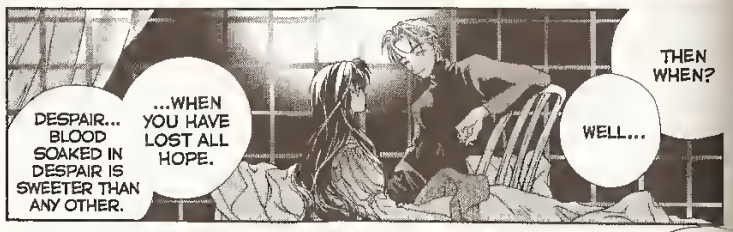


DARKNESS AWAITING NIGHT ✝ END


Honey blood
【ハニー・ブラッド】
...AS HE CALLED HIMSELF THE ANGEL OF DEATH
...HE CAME TO MY BEDSIDE AT NIGHT, AND SPOKE WITH A KIND, SOFT VOICE...
WITH HAIR THAT SHONE LIKE THE MOON AND EYES THAT GLITTERED LIKE THE STARS...
I WANT TO JOIN MY FAMILY, SOON...
...AND HE WOULD CONSIDER, AND TELL ME IT WAS NOT YET TIME.
BUT THE PAIN IN MY CHEST IS UNBEAR-ABLE.
WELL...
THE SPASMS HAVE CEASED FOR A WHILE.
HOW ARE YOU FEEL-ING?
NO, CLAIRE.
I SMILE
EVERY NIGHT I ASKED...
...THE NIGHT YOU TAKE ME AWAY, ANGEL?
IS TONIGHT ...

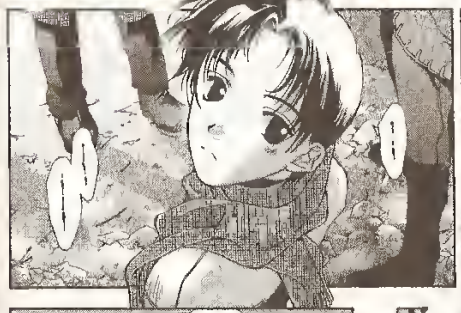
ALWAYS, I AM ALONE.
THERE IS NO ONE.
WHETHER BY SUNLIGHT OR MOONLIGHT..
Whee!
Eee!
A ha ha ha!
POOR CLAIRE.
YOU'RE STILL SO YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL...
NO ONE WILL SEE ME, FOR FEAR OF THIS DISEASE...
I CANNOT BEAR TO LIVE MUCH LONGER.
HOW LONG MUST I WAIT, ANGEL?
YOUR DISEASE SUSTAINS ITSELF. IT FEEDS ON THE WEAKNESS IN YOUR HEART.
BUT...
TAKE ME WITH YOU
CLAIRE.
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOOD TO ME.
I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT AS ALONE AS YOU THINK...
DON'T CRY.
THERE MUST BE SOMEONE WHO CARES ABOUT YOU.
LIAR.
THERE IS NO SUCH PERSON.
LIES.

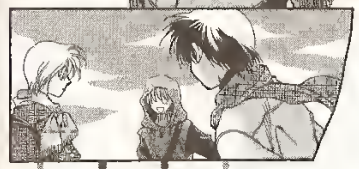

WHY WON'T YOU GRANT ME RELIEF?
YOU'RE SO CRUEL.
BECAUSE IT IS NOT YET TIME.
NO, NOT YET CLAIRE.
YOU SEEM WELL TODAY.
HAVE YOU COME TO TAKE ME AWAY?
ANGEL?

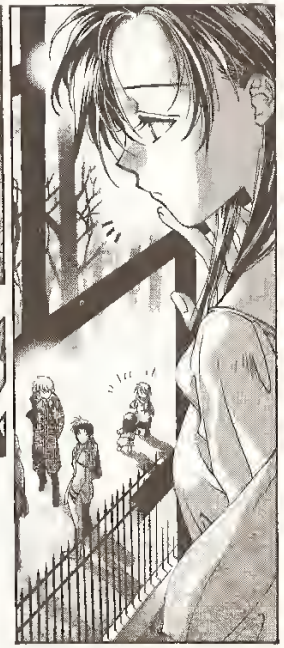

DESPAIR... BLOOD SOAKED IN DESPAIR IS SWEETER THAN ANY OTHER.
...WHEN YOU HAVE LOST ALL HOPE.
WELL...
THEN WHEN?

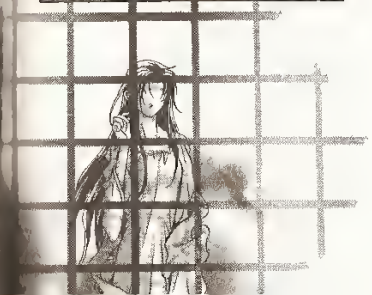
I'LL GIVE YOU HOPE.
THAT IS OUR GAME. OKAY?
THIS IS TRUE...BUT NEITHER HAVE YOU GIVEN UP.
I HAVE NO HOPE.

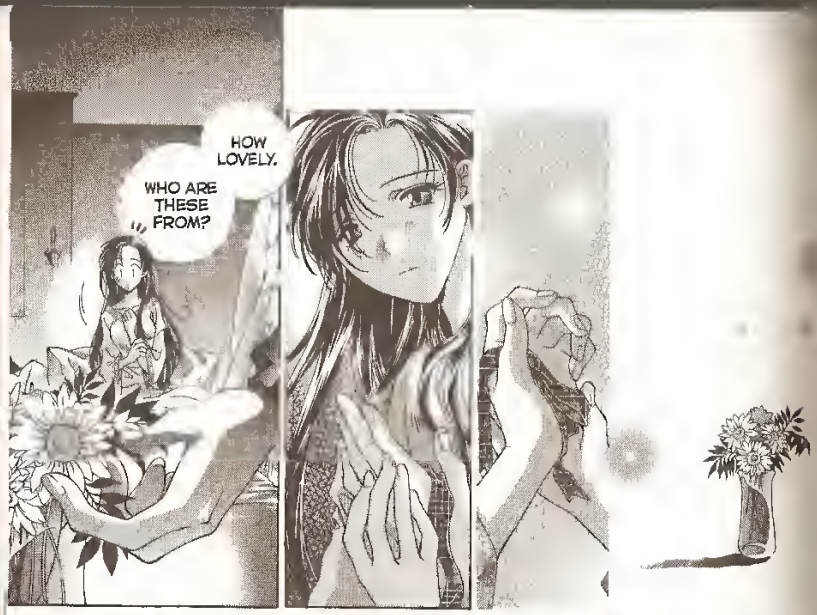
Eee!
Ahhh

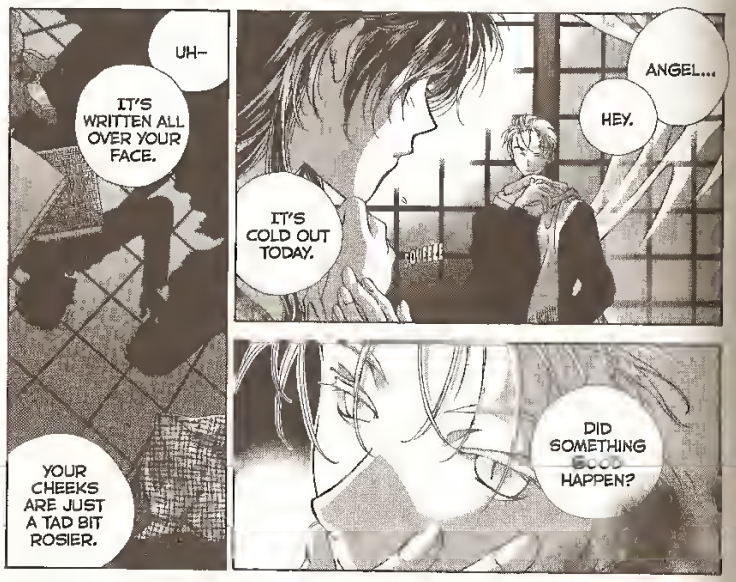


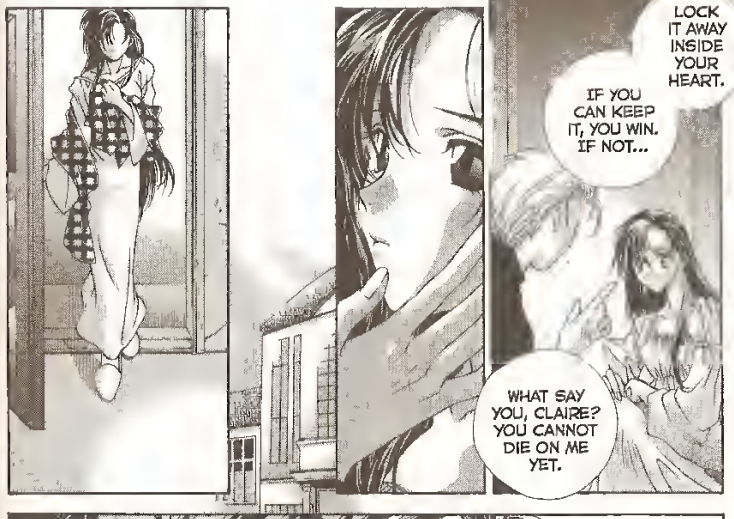


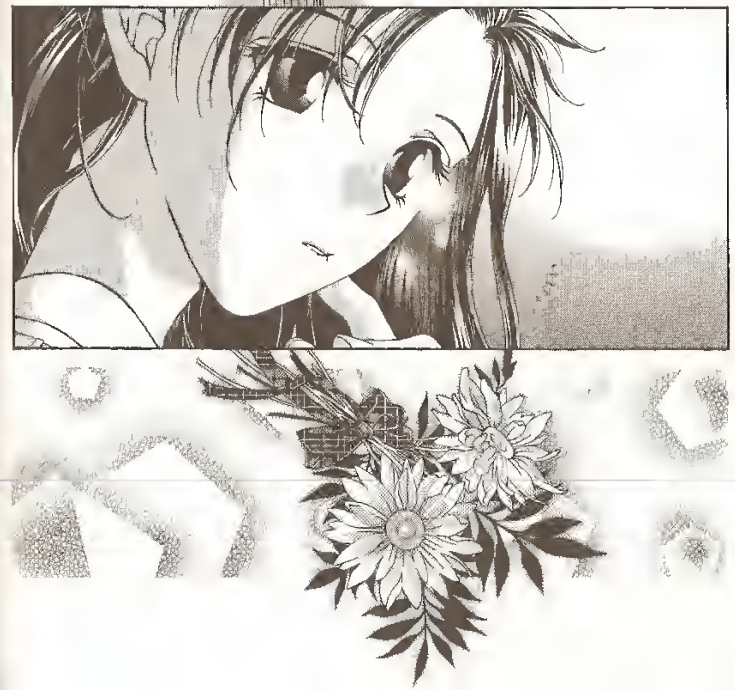




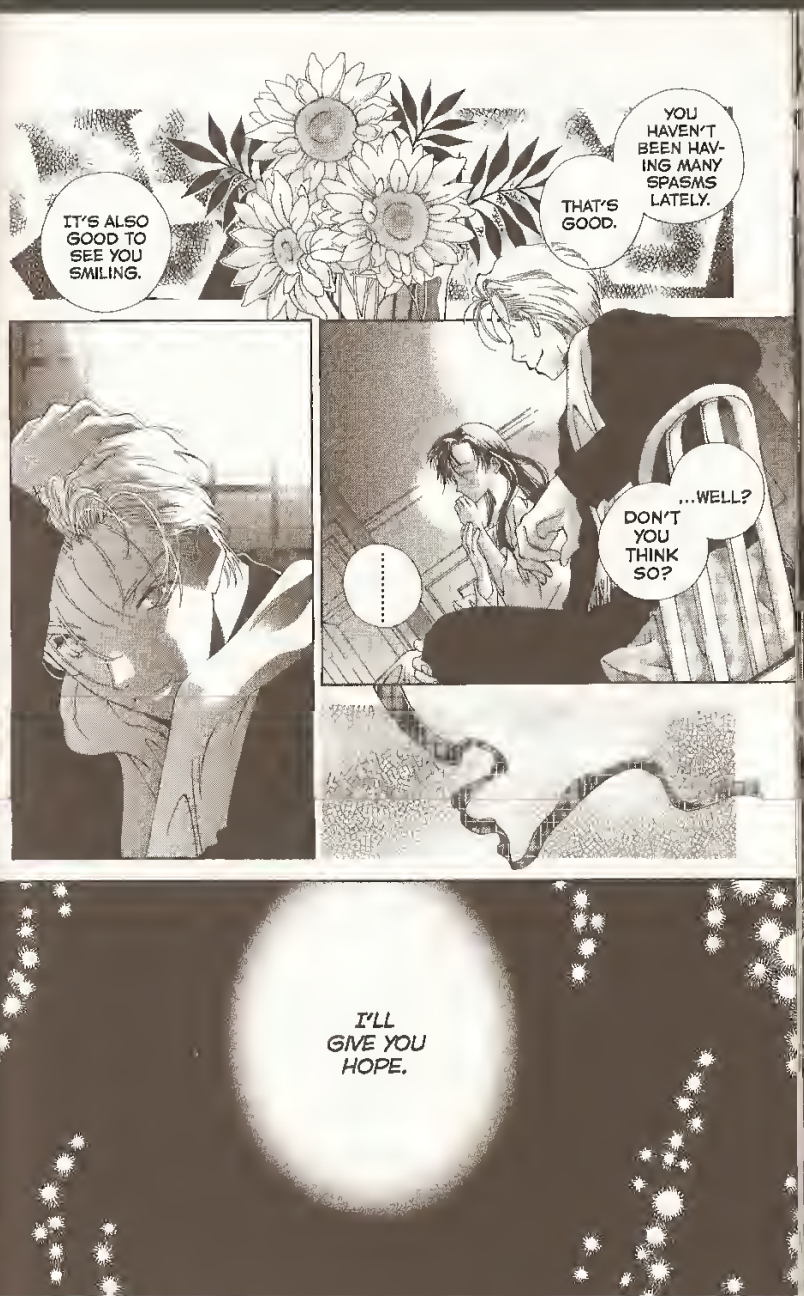

HOW LOVELY.
WHO ARE THESE FROM?


UH–
IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE.
YOUR CHEEKS ARE JUST A TAD BIT ROSIER.
ANGEL...
HEY.
IT'S COLD OUT TODAY.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

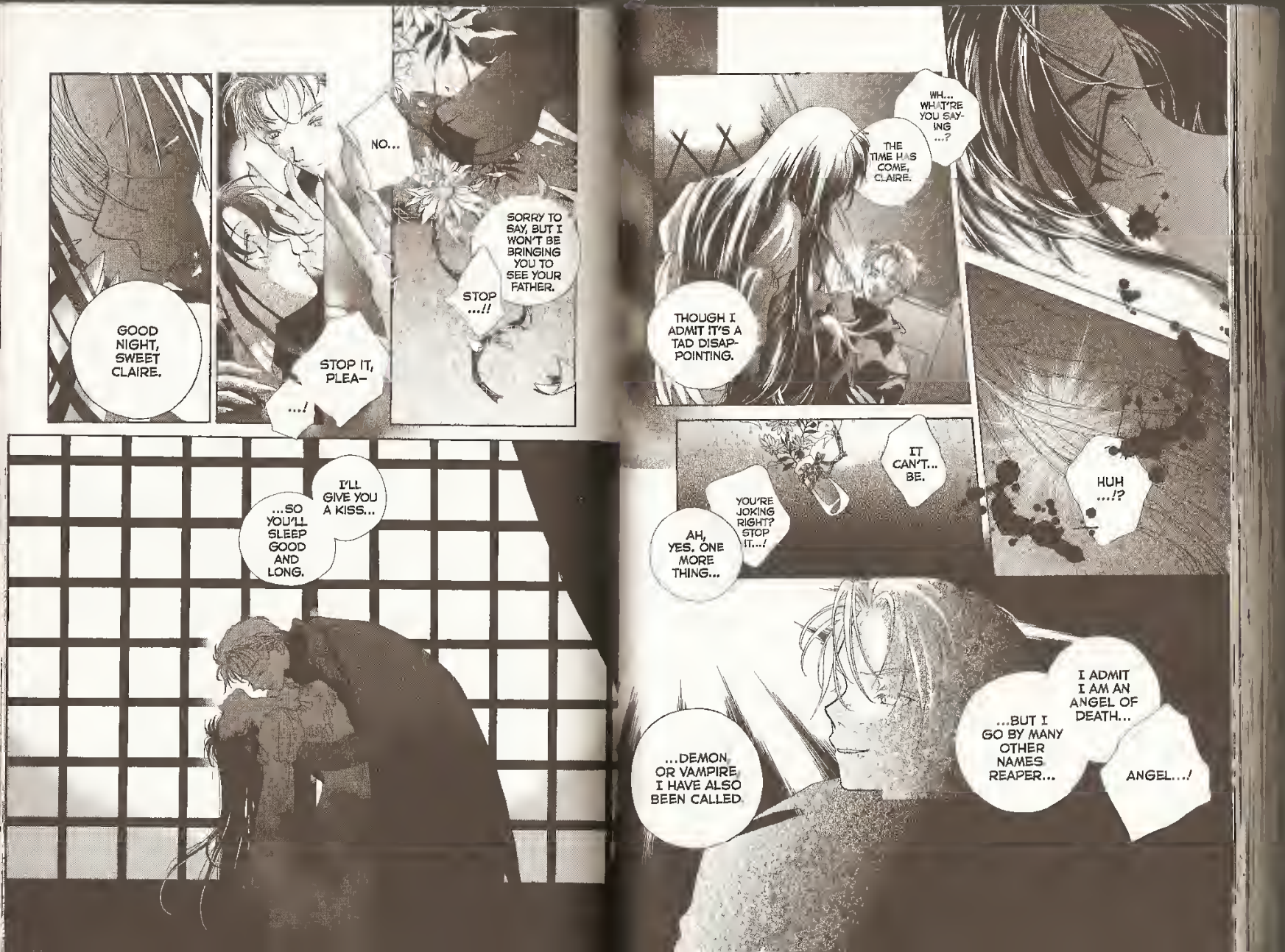

LOCK IT AWAY INSIDE YOUR HEART.
IF YOU CAN KEEP IT, YOU WIN. IF NOT...
WHAT SAY YOU, CLAIRE? YOU CANNOT DIE ON ME YET.

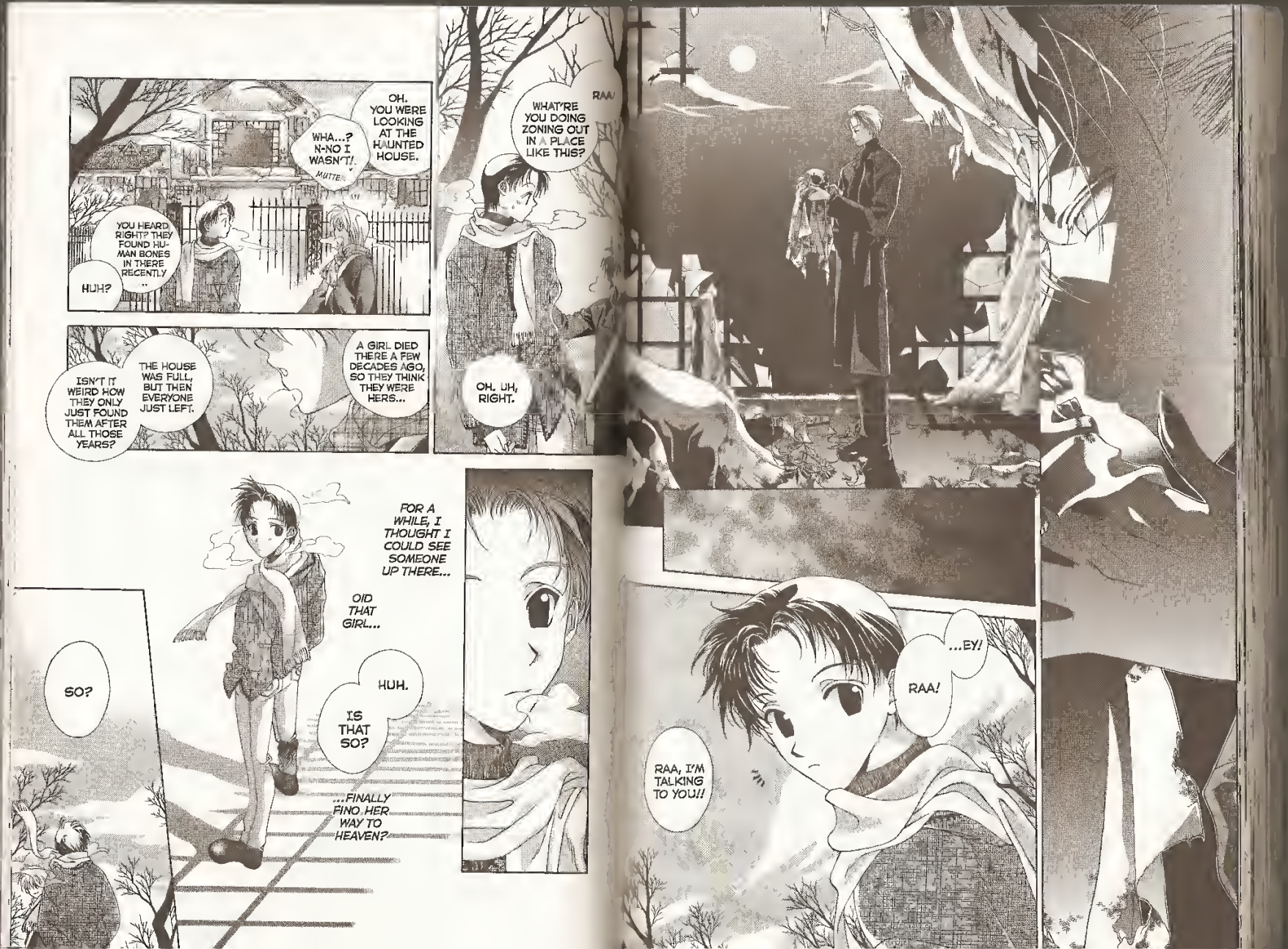


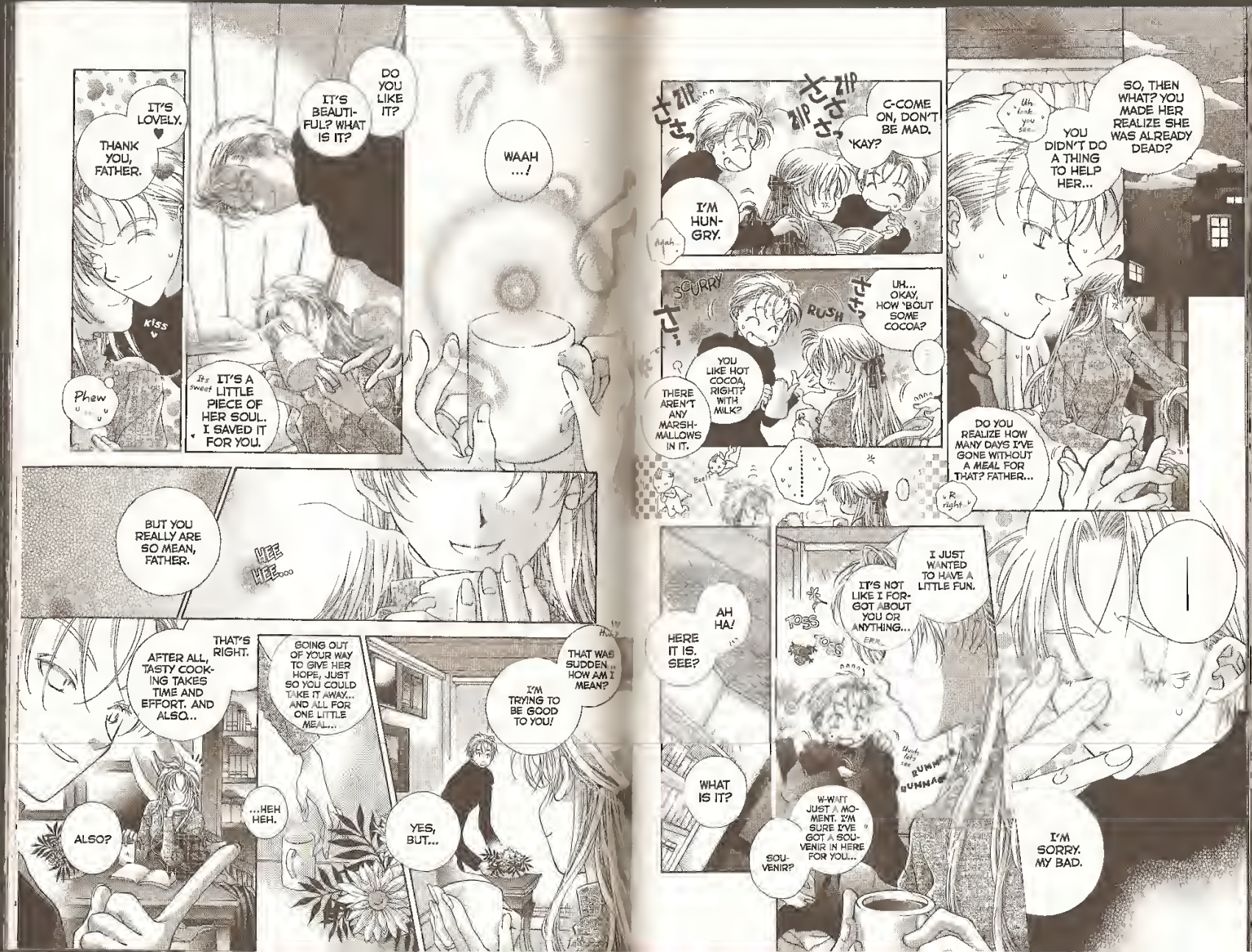
THERE MUST BE SOMEONE WHO CARES ABOUT YOU.
I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT AS ALONE AS YOU THINK...
IT FEEDS ON THE WEAKNESS IN YOUR HEART.
YOUR DISEASE SUSTAINS ITSELF.
...WAS HE TELLING THE TRUTH...?
HE SAID HE'D GIVE ME HOPE.


IT'S ALSO GOOD TO SEE YOU SMILING.
THAT'S GOOD.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HAVING MANY SPASMS LATELY.
...WELL?
DON'T YOU THINK SO?
I'LL GIVE YOU HOPE.

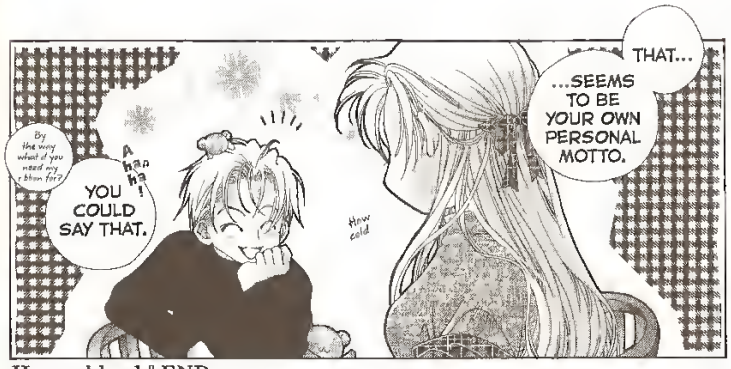
ANGE–
YOU HAD HOPE, CLAIRE.
WHAT WILL YOU HAVE WHEN I TAKE IT AWAY?
I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO ENJOY THIS LONGER.
HUH, HOW BORING.
HUH?
WELL, IT'S JUST...
...THAT WAS FASTER THAN I'D EXPECTED...
WHAT?
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?
DESPAIR IS THE SWEETEST TASTE OF ALL. WHAT BETTER WAY THAN TO OFFER HOPE...ONLY TO SNATCH IT AWAY?
HAVING HOPE, AND HAVING IT STOLEN... PRODUCES DESPAIR, RIGHT?
WHAT IS IT?
YOU SEEM HAPPY.
I HAVE BEEN FEELING SO MUCH BETTER. THE PAIN IN MY CHEST IS GONE!
YES. YES, LISTEN!
ANGEL?
IS THAT YOU?
I WAS EVEN ABLE TO GO DOWNSTAIRS...
I TRIED TO WALK A BIT TODAY. MY BODY FEELS SO LIGHT!
HUH... THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
YOU SEEM HAPPY, CLAIRE.
I AM HAPPY. SO VERY HAPPY!
I only stumbled a little.
OH, IT MUST BE. IS THIS WHAT YOU MEANT BY GIVING ME HOPE?
COULD THIS BE YOUR DOING, ANGEL?
I'M SO, SO HAPPY!


GOOD NIGHT, SWEET CLAIRE.
STOP IT, PLEA-...!
NO...
STOP ...!!
SORRY TO SAY, BUT I WON'T BE BRINGING YOU TO SEE YOUR FATHER.
...SO YOU'LL SLEEP GOOD AND LONG.
I'LL GIVE YOU A KISS...
WH... WHAT'RE YOU SAY-ING ...?
THE TIME HAS COME, CLAIRE.
THOUGH I ADMIT IT'S A TAD DISAP-POINTING.
IT CAN'T... BE.
YOU'RE JOKING RIGHT? STOP IT...!
AH, YES. ONE MORE THING...
HUH ...!?
...DEMON, OR VAMPIRE, I HAVE ALSO BEEN CALLED
...BUT I GO BY MANY OTHER NAMES REAPER...
I ADMIT I AM AN ANGEL OF DEATH...
ANGEL...!


OH. YOU WERE LOOKING AT THE HAUNTED HOUSE.
WHA...? N-NO I WASN'T!.
MUTTER
YOU HEARD RIGHT? THEY FOUND HUMAN BONES IN THERE RECENTLY ..
HUH?
A GIRL DIED THERE A FEW DECADES AGO, SO THEY THINK THEY WERE HERS...
THE HOUSE WAS FULL, BUT THEN EVERYONE JUST LEFT.
ISN'T IT WEIRD HOW THEY ONLY JUST FOUND THEM AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS?
RAA!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING ZONING OUT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
OH. UH, RIGHT.
FOR A WHILE, I THOUGHT I COULD SEE SOMEONE UP THERE...
OID THAT GIRL...
HUH.
IS THAT SO?
SO?
...FINALLY FIND HER WAY TO HEAVEN?
...EY!
RAA!
RAA, I'M TALKING TO YOU!!


IT'S LOVELY.
THANK YOU, FATHER.
Kiss
Phew
DO YOU LIKE IT?
IT'S BEAUTIFUL? WHAT IS IT?
It's sweet
IT'S A LITTLE PIECE OF HER SOUL. I SAVED IT FOR YOU.
WAAH ...!
BUT YOU REALLY ARE SO MEAN, FATHER.
HEE HEE...
THAT'S RIGHT.
AFTER ALL, TASTY COOKING TAKES TIME AND EFFORT. AND ALSO...
ALSO?
GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO GIVE HER HOPE, JUST SO YOU COULD TAKE IT AWAY... AND ALL FOR ONE LITTLE MEAL...
...HEH HEH.
I'M TRYING TO BE GOOD TO YOU!
YES, BUT...
THAT WAS SUDDEN.. HOW AM I MEAN?
ZIP
C-COME ON, DON'T BE MAD. 'KAY?
I'M HUNGRY.
Agah...
SCURRY
RUSH
UH... OKAY, HOW 'BOUT SOME COCOA?
YOU LIKE HOT COCOA, RIGHT? WITH MILK?
THERE AREN'T ANY MARSHMALLOWS IN IT.
Beep!
Sigh
R-right
SO, THEN WHAT? YOU MADE HER REALIZE SHE WAS ALREADY DEAD?
Uh, I think you see...
YOU DIDN'T DO A THING TO HELP HER...
DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY DAYS I'VE GONE WITHOUT A MEAL FOR THAT? FATHER...
I'M SORRY. MY BAD.
I JUST WANTED TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN.
IT'S NOT LIKE I FORGOT ABOUT YOU OR ANYTHING...
TOSS
TOSS
Erm...
W-WAIT JUST A MOMENT. I'M SURE I'VE GOT A SOUVENIR IN HERE FOR YOU...
SOUVENIR?
Uuuh, let's see...
GUNMAG
GUNMAG
AH HA!
HERE IT IS. SEE?
WHAT IS IT?

WHAT IS A FAMILY?
WHEN I WAS FOUR, I LOST MY PARENTS. WHEN I WAS EIGHT I LOST MY FOSTER PARENTS.
THE CHILDREN I USED TO CARE FOR...
...AND THE ONE I CARED FOR MOST ARE ALL GONE.
"FAMILY" IS SOMETHING YOU LOVE, BUT YOU CANNOT HOLD ONTO.



Honey blood✝END

BUT, I'M SURE IT WON'T DISAPPEAR.

IN THE SMALLEST GESTURES... IN THE MOST CASUAL WORDS...

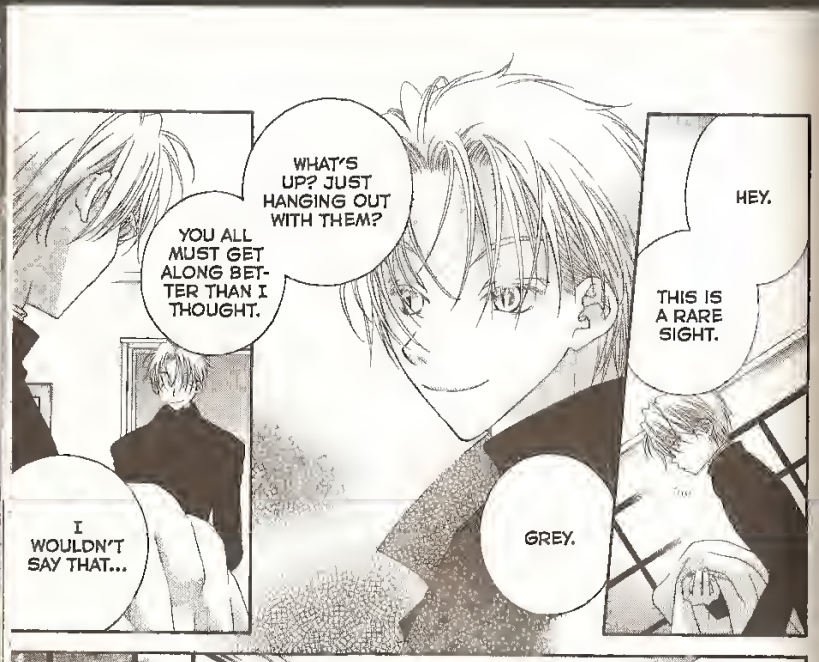
ひだまりの窓

SUN THROUGH THE WINDOW

...TOGETHER, ALONG WITH THE PAIN, IT REMAINS.

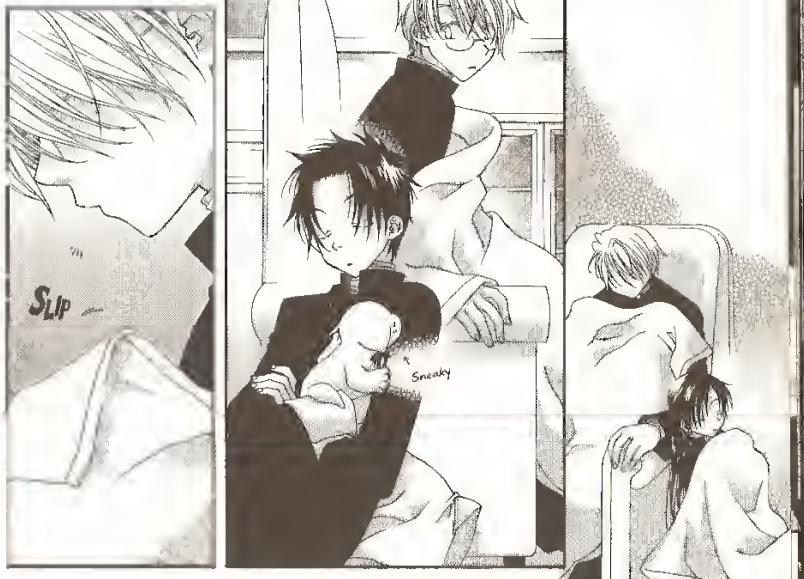
*SEE SPECIAL SECTION
I am so sick of this
I can't put anything away right!
But he is
Does he have a type A blood?
SCURRY
UGH, THOSE TWO...
They're in the way
ZZZ
ZZZ
PAUSE
ZZZ
ZZZ
SNAP
STACK
PEEK
Here we go

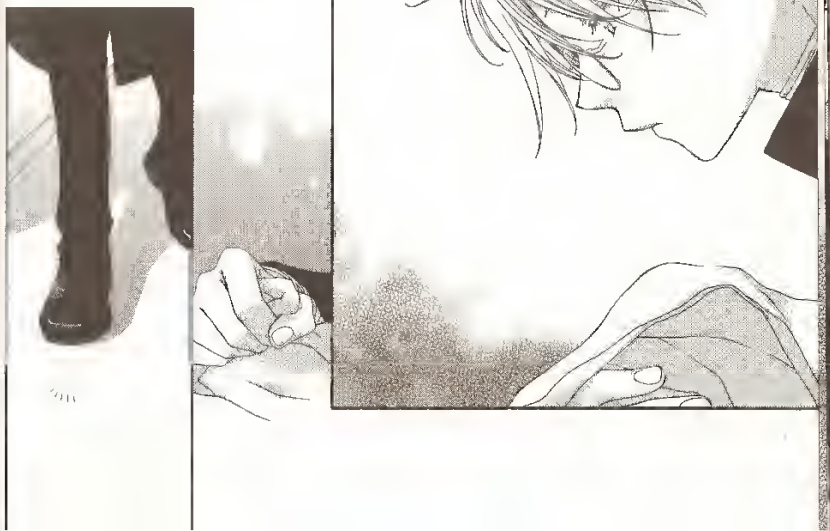
I'M ALWAYS TELLING HIM TO CHANGE HIS CLOTHES AND GO TO BED BEFORE HE FALLS ASLEEP...
HE JUST DOESN'T LEARN, DOES HE? SILLY SHIKIMI...
OH, MY.
HE DID IT AGAIN.
AAAAH.
THIS IS JUST RIDICULOUS. THAT DOES IT...
I wanna jump water on them...
HA! HE'S AS BAD AS ONE OF THE CHILDREN.
YOU THINK? PERSONALLY, I'D SAY HE'S MORE OF A FATHER TO THEM...
THEN HE'S A VERY YOUNG FATHER!
He he he


HEY.
THIS IS A RARE SIGHT.
WHAT'S UP? JUST HANGING OUT WITH THEM?
YOU ALL MUST GET ALONG BETTER THAN I THOUGHT.
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT...
GREY.

I ONLY DOZED OFF FOR A MOMENT.
...THOUGH I CAN NEVER SLEEP FOR LONG.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH TAKING A BREAK EVERY SO OFTEN?
IT'S LIKE THEY SAY, "A FLOWER IN EACH HAND."*
ZZZ
It seems he can sense him...
Uuuuh... Uuuuh...
Huh?
Heh heh heh...

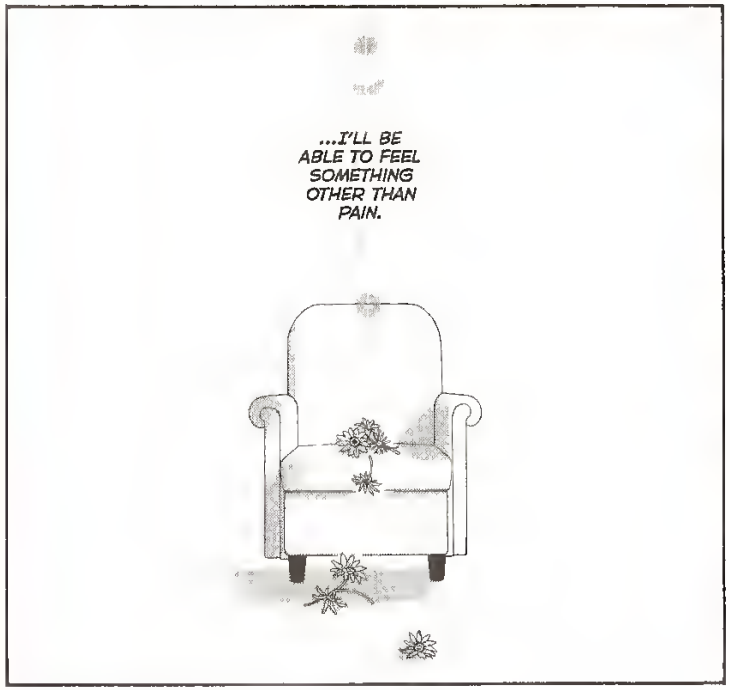
*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES



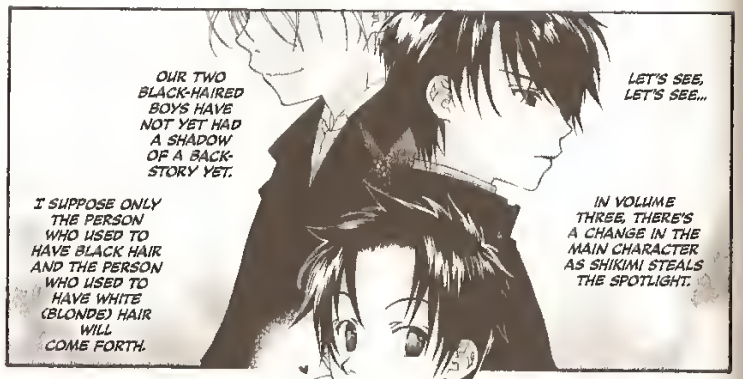


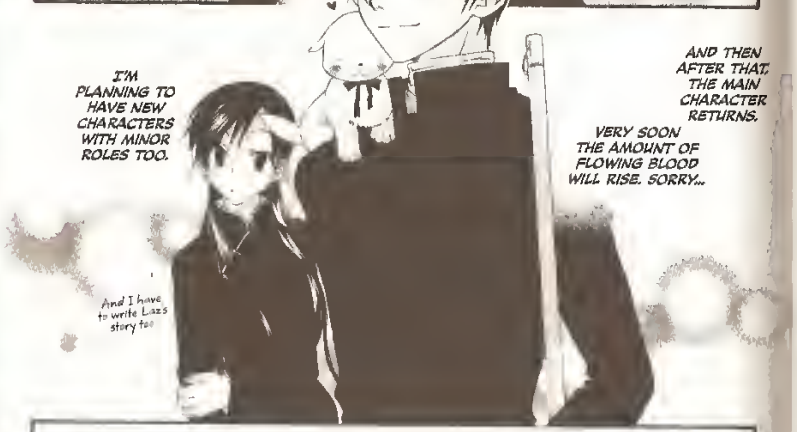
SHIKIMI...?
...THEN PERHAPS SOMEDAY, AMIO MEMORIES...
AND IF THAT IS THE CASE...

Nightmare...
Uuuh Uuuuhn Uuh
...ALL YOU COULD FEEL WAS PAIN.
SQUEEK
IN QUIET WORDS ...
AFTER ALL, BACK THEN...
IN THE SMALLEST GESTURES ...
YOU'VE...
...REALLY CHANGED IN THESE PAST THREE YEARS.
Heh heh heh!
Uuuh Uuuh Uuuh...?
TICKLE TICKLE
...IT WON'T FADE AWAY.
I KNOW IT.



SUN THROUGH THE WINDOW ✝ END


OUR TWO BLACK-HAIRED BOYS HAVE NOT YET HAD A SHADOW OF A BACK-STORY YET.
LET'S SEE, LET'S SEE...
I SUPPOSE ONLY THE PERSON WHO USED TO HAVE BLACK HAIR AND THE PERSON WHO USED TO HAVE WHITE (BLONDE) HAIR WILL COME FORTH.
IN VOLUME THREE, THERE'S A CHANGE IN THE MAIN CHARACTER AS SHIKIMI STEALS THE SPOTLIGHT.


I'M PLANNING TO HAVE NEW CHARACTERS WITH MINOR ROLES TOO.
AND THEN AFTER THAT, THE MAIN CHARACTER RETURNS.
VERY SOON THE AMOUNT OF FLOWING BLOOD WILL RISE. SORRY...
And I have to write Lazs story too

TO ALL MY EDITORS:

MY MANAGE-SAMA

AND TO ALL YOU WHO READ THIS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH! -

SEE YOU IN VOLUME 3!

Afterword

IT'S TIME TO GO INTO THE AFTERWORD NOW BUT YOUR MAEDA-SAN HERE IS QUITE DOWN.

IT'S BECAUSE I JUST SAW AN OOOOOLD MANU-SCRIPT. (IN OTHER WORDS, I HAVE TO LOOK OVER IT AGAIN BEFORE THE TANKO-BON GOES OUT!)

IT'S BOTH HEAVEN AND HELL.

OF COURSE I'M HAPPY TO BE GETTING A BOOK OUT BUT... STILL...

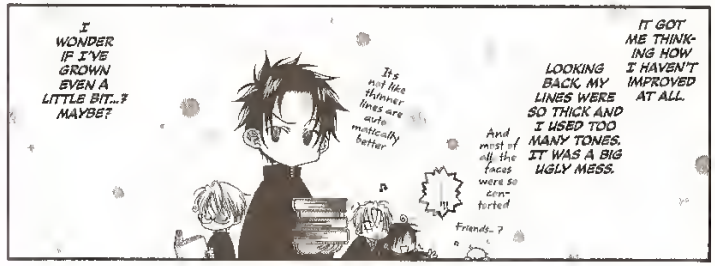
Instructions

How to Choose a Good Fish

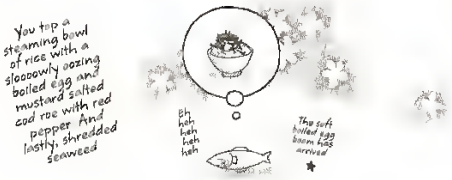
① its eyes aren't murky

② it's flexible

③ its gills are a bright red

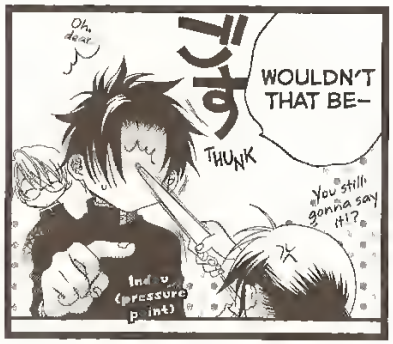

I WONDER IF I'VE GROWN EVEN A LITTLE BIT...? MAYBE?
It's not like thinner lines are automatically better
And most of all, the faces were so contorted
LOOKING BACK, MY LINES WERE SO THICK AND I USED TOO MANY TONES. IT WAS A BIG UGLY MESS.
IT GOT ME THINKING HOW I HAVEN'T IMPROVED AT ALL.
Friends...?

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO WRITE FOR THESE AFTERWORDS.


You top a steaming bowl of rice with a slooooowly oozing boiled egg and mustard salted cod roe with red pepper. And lastly, shredded seaweed
Eh heh heh heh heh
The soft boiled egg bacon bits arrived

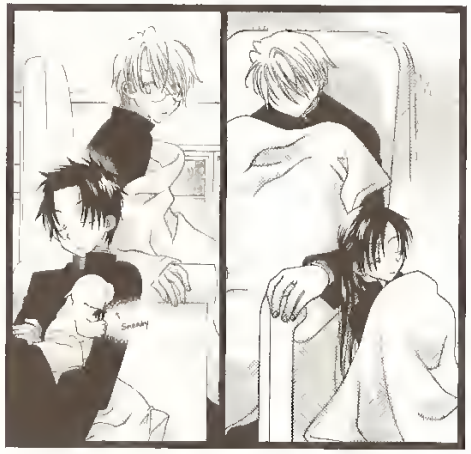
Translators Notes

Pg. 19 – Indou



The location of "indou" is right between the eyebrows. When pressure is applied to it, such ailments as hay fever, emphysema, nosebleeds, and vertigo can be cured. It is one of the many locations on the body believed to benefit the body's systems by the use of acupressure.

Pg. 171 – "A flower in each hand"



The Japanese phrase "to have a flower in each hand" means that a young man is being escorted by two lovely ladies. In this case, Sensei is apparently with two such lovely youths, Taki and Laz.

Blood Types & Personality

Blood types are the same to Japanese as Horoscopes are to Westerners. They are believed to predict a person's personality and character, and to play a role in compatibility between partners.

The Traits

- Type A people are said to be hyper-organized and perfectionists. Taki fulfills his blood type's expectations with his perfectionism and tidiness.

- Type B people are called "The Hunters" as they are strong and a little unpredictable. This can make them a little incompatible with others...especially Type A's. That's why it's little surprise that Laz is a Type B with her individualist attitude and antagonistic relationship with Taki.

- Type O people are supposedly loyal and passionate. We will see a character down the road who is the embodiment of this quite a bit.

- Type AB people are cool and rational. No characters thus far have been revealed to be this blood type.

Fact vs. Fiction

Since the discovery of blood types at the turn of the 20th century, people have tried to find a connection between blood type and our value as humans. Some have justified race superiority through blood type frequencies and most Asian cultures swear by its association with personality. To this day, however, the only scientifically founded evidence that blood type has an effect on the body is that there is some correlation between race and dominant blood type, and specific blood types are susceptible to certain illnesses.

The Buzz

Almost everybody in Japan knows his or her blood type and there are plenty of venues willing to capitalize on this. Dating services use it as an indicator of good matches, and some companies have even been known to split up their work force according to blood type to group certain personalities together in an effort to increase productivity. For many, however, it's merely a source of entertainment and spice.

DARKNESS AWAITING NIGHT

This was another two-parter. The second part was just jam-packed, wasn't it? It might be that I should have taken it a little slower but when Shikimi started to lose it I just couldn't stop. Though actually I'd wanted to make that a far later chapter.
Getting angry, carrying on, and crying... it was a busy chapter for Shikimi. It was funny even for me to hear him saying "Stupid! Fool!" like that.

But I digress. When I'd be told by my friends that while Taki was at home, it didn't look like Shikimi had bathed once, I used to get so mad! (ha). Nah, but really since it doesn't last very long, it's okay.

BONUS: SUN THROUGH THE WINDOW

"Family" and "Heartwarming" were the rare themes I was told to draw but somehow it went in a different direction.
I had a choice between making a 12-pager and a 28-pager but since I was short on time I went with the short one.
Always so slow at drawing.
The longer story I had to give up on was between Taki and the oldest of his little sisters.

Compared to volume 1, the story feels much more different and has grown far darker. And it only gets more like that as we go on. For those of you who like heartwarming stories, my apologies.

Honey blood

"Um. Do you think I could completely redo it...?"

"That's impossible."

Is what we discussed but after looking over it, I couldn't not meddle with it. I did it and scrammed.
My words of "I'll go along with it and not fix it" became a lie. I'm sorry.
I'm not very forgiving when it comes to the small things like that. I can't take it. Even so, I do the minimum.
I can't believe I debuted with such a piece.

A vampire is, in other words, a corpse that's returned to life. Different regions have different terms for it and ignoring that special characteristic and looking at his origin, I suppose Grey would best be called a 'strigoi'. I think?

I'm making it so that he's not related to the young woman in the story but he's the type to be sweet to his relatives. Now that I think about it, I didn't give her a name.

BONUS TALK

FLOWERS, TOYS, AND THE FROZEN MOON

That was a two-parter. The giant Agi (that was the cover illustration for the second half and then made into an extra image for this volume) was popular when it first came out. Regarding Laz, I'm often asked "So is it a guy or a girl?" to which I answer... it's what you see. At first I was a little unsure who I should have him fall for between Taki and Shikimi, but my editors helped me decide on Shikimi. "Taki already has Agi" is what they said. And so I am writing Taki and Laz to have a sort-of sibling relationship. It's a real help having those two, and then the one dog, offer comic relief.

DOOR OF LIGHT

What an appropriate title... After that I thought of a better one, but by then it was too late.
Even for ever-optimistic Taki there are plenty of things that scare him. I tried to draw just one of them here. Then there's Grey. I wanted to depict him in a creepier grooosss kind away but he came out surprisingly clean.

LAZLO VARGA

15 years old
Probably has Type B blood

The type who thinks himself very strong and walks to the beat of his own drum.
I want to give him clothes that are easy to move around in. It doesn't look it at all but he really is a powerful Demon Slayer. He has tons of older siblings.
His height is 160cm more or less.

GREY

Age Unknown
Given age is 26-27

He may look like he's sturdy and strong but since he died of an illness, he might be rather meager when he takes off his clothes.
The reason he always keeps his coat on is because he'll burn in the sun. Which gets people asking me "but doesn't he move about during the day?" heh heh.
He's the youngest of seven children.
He's probably a little over 180cm tall.

BLACK SUN SILVER MOON

Despite Taki's best efforts, the darkness within Shikimi grows stronger with each passing day. Now, with a duty-bound demon hunter obsessed with destroying Shikimi and an old friend pushing him towards the tempting darkness, can Taki keep his promise to save the priest — or his promise to kill him?

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